ピアノの森 10

一色まこと

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The Perfect World of KAI

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ISSHIKI Makoto

The Perfect World of KAI

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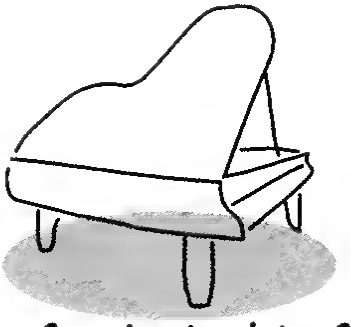

The Perfect World of KAI

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Second Movement

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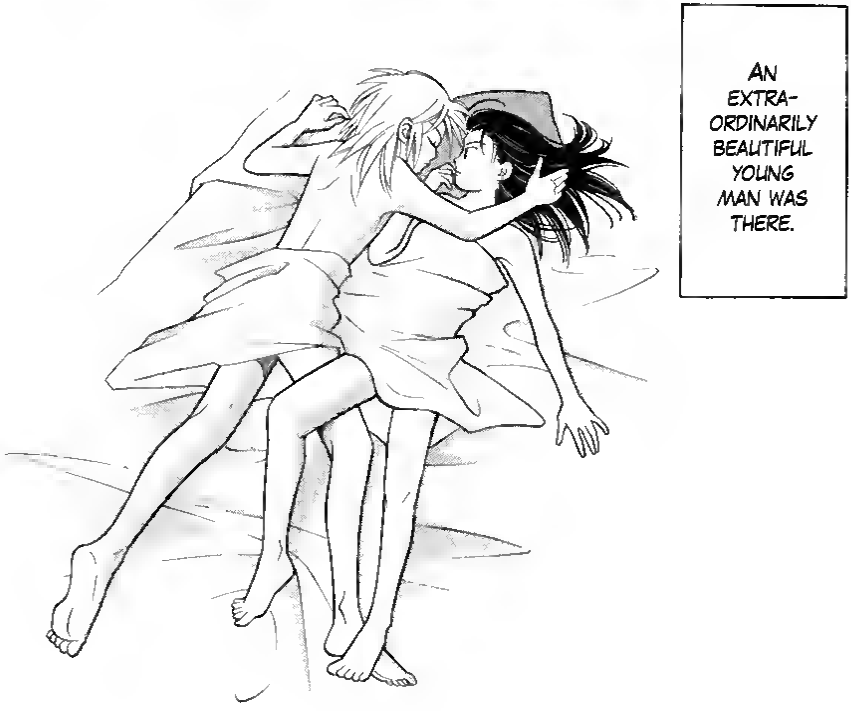
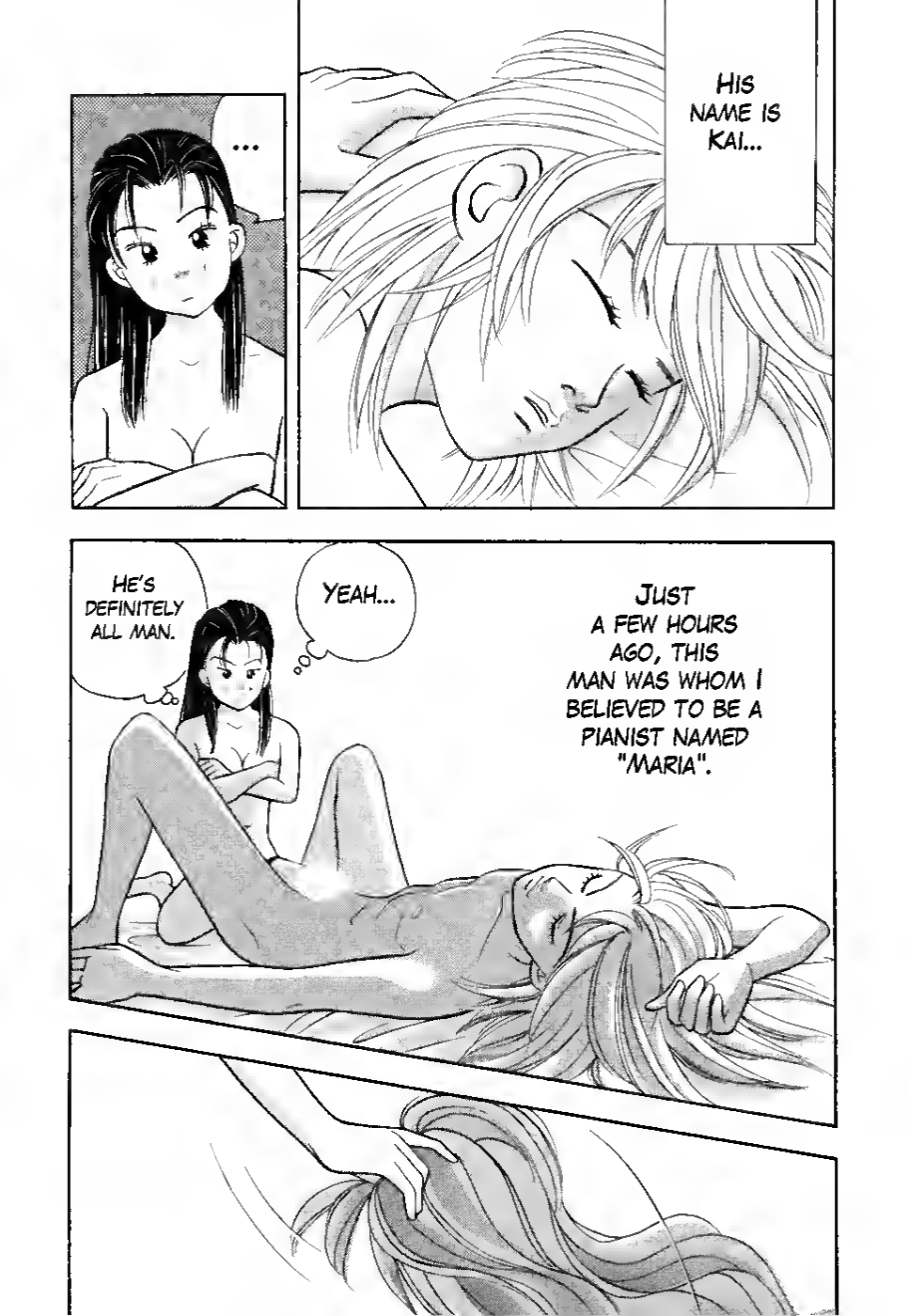
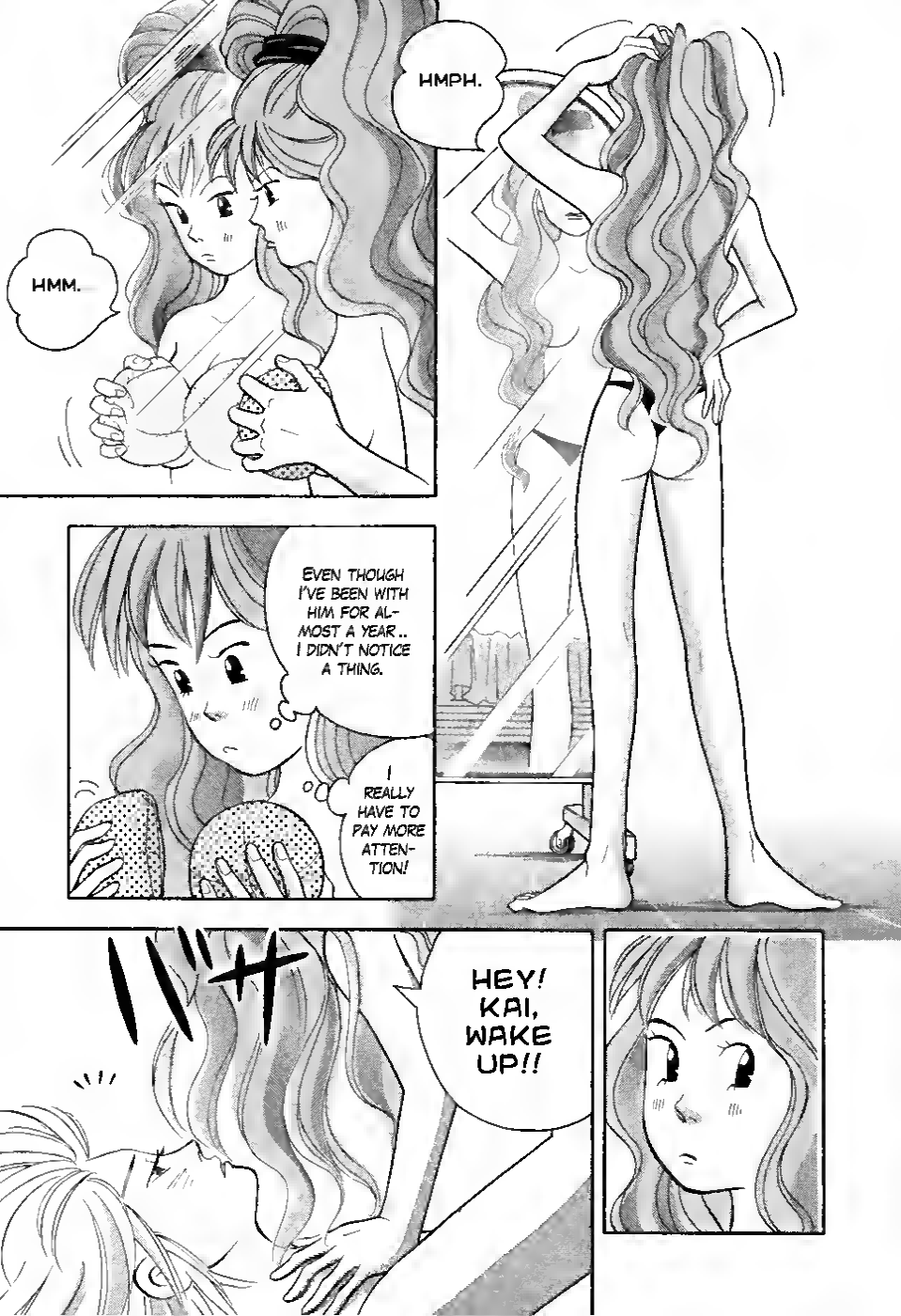
Any resemblance to actual people, organizations, and/or events are purely coincidental.

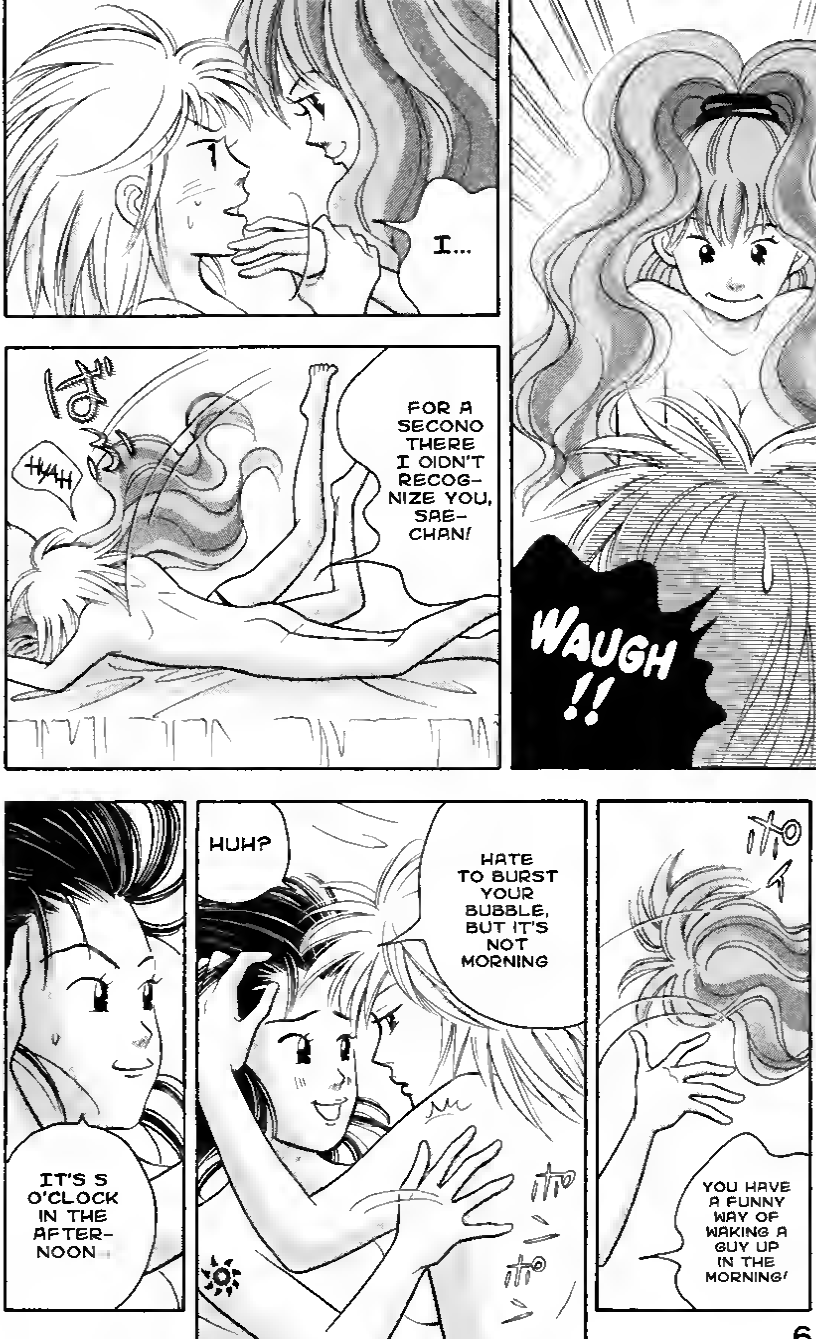


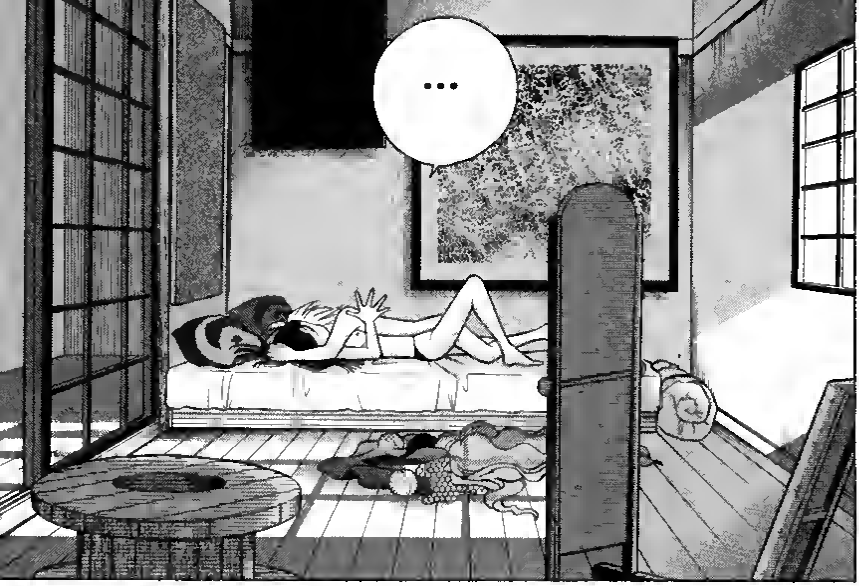
Chapter 76

The Continuation of the Dream


...
HIS NAME IS KAI...
HE'S DEFINITELY ALL MAN.
YEAH...
JUST A FEW HOURS AGO, THIS MAN WAS WHOM I BELIEVED TO BE A PIANIST NAMED "MARIA".


HMM.
HMPH.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN WITH HIM FOR ALMOST A YEAR.. I DIDN'T NOTICE A THING.
I REALLY HAVE TO PAY MORE ATTENTION!
HEY! KAI, WAKE UP!!


I...
WAUGH !!
FOR A SECOND THERE I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU, SAE-CHAN!
HUH?
IT'S 5 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTER-NOON
HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT IT'S NOT MORNING
YOU HAVE A FUNNY WAY OF WAKING A GUY UP IN THE MORNING!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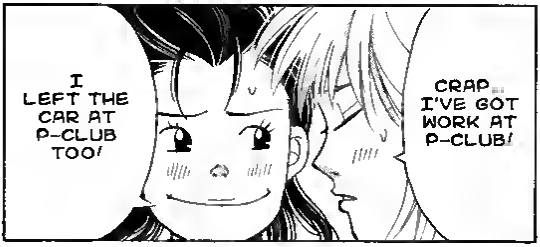
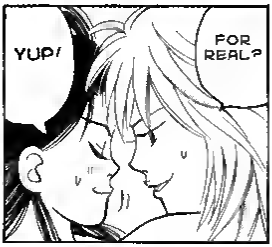

I LEFT THE CAR AT P-CLUB TOO!
CRAP... I'VE GOT WORK AT P-CLUB!

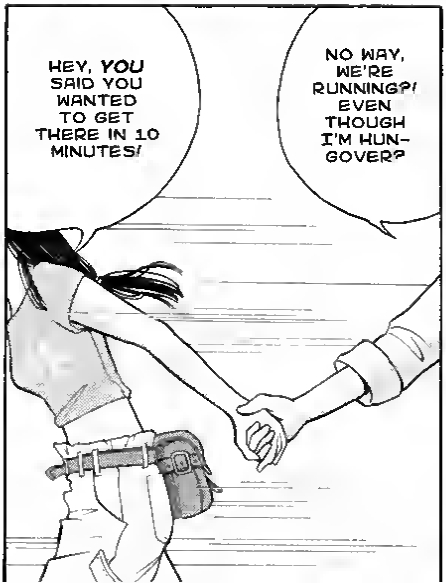

YUP!
FOR REAL?

CRA—AP!!!!

SAE-CHAN, YOU CAN GET TO P-CLUB IN 10 MINUTES, RIGHT?
YEAH, I DID SAY THAT.
NEED A HAND?
WHY IS HE DOING STUFF LIKE THIS?
EVEN IF I GRADUALLY ASK HIM...
AHAHA!
HEY THERE, MARIA!

AND ACCEPTING IT LIKE IT'S NORMAL?
WHY AM I...
NOT GIVING ANY DEEP THOUGHT ABOUT THIS STRANGE SITUATION,
LOOKS PRETTY GOOD
IT'S A NEW COLOR THEY PUT OUT
HOW IS IT?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
STOP! STOP!
キャハハ
HERE, YOU TRY IT!

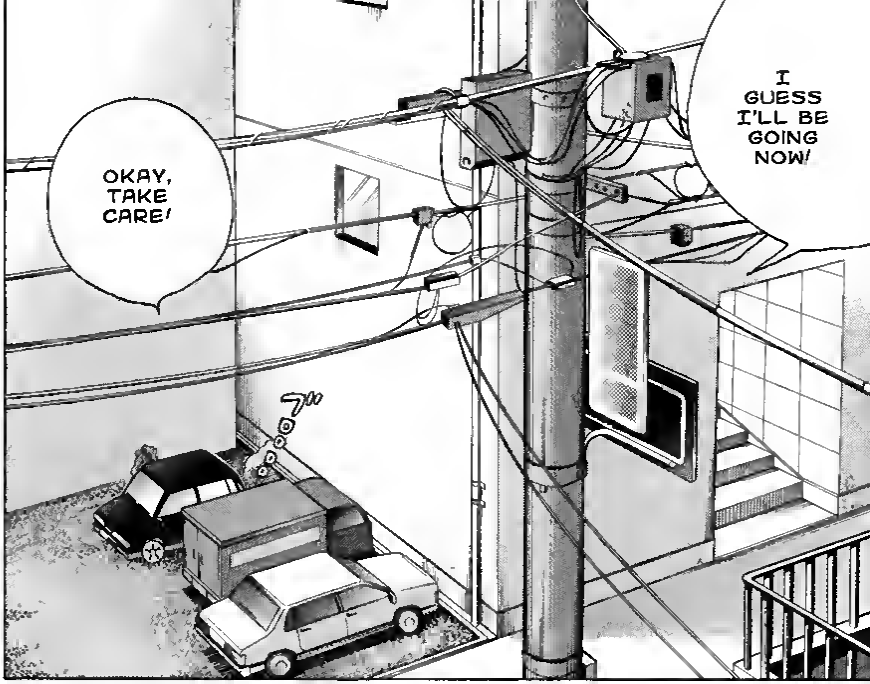
カン
カン
カン
有荘

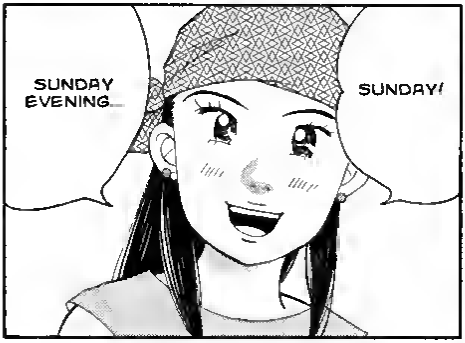

HEY, YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GET THERE IN 10 MINUTES!
NO WAY, WE'RE RUNNING?! EVEN THOUGH I'M HUN-GOVER?

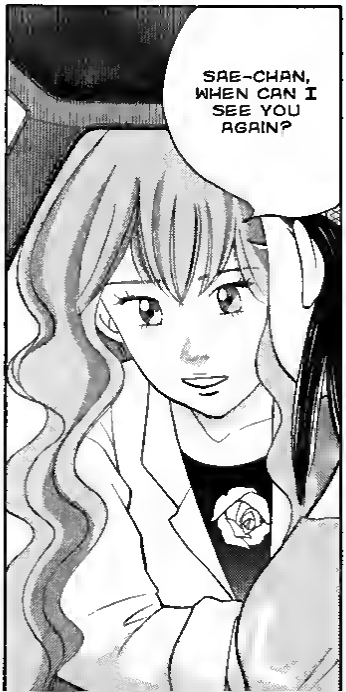
AUGH!! MY HEAD HURTS !!
YEAH... THAT'LL BE THE HANG-OVER

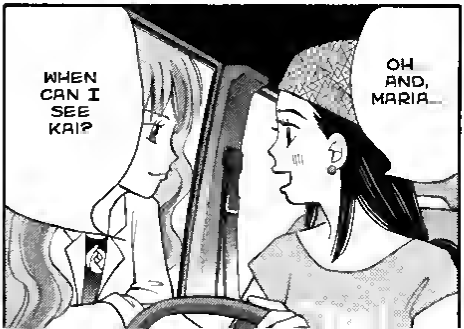
DON'T SAY "DUDE" WHEN YOU'RE DRESSED AS MARIA!
NO WAY DUDE! I'M WALKING THERE!
HUH? WHEN YOU SAID 10 MINUTES, YOU MEANT 10 MINUTES OF RUNNING?!

ブォ ォ ォ

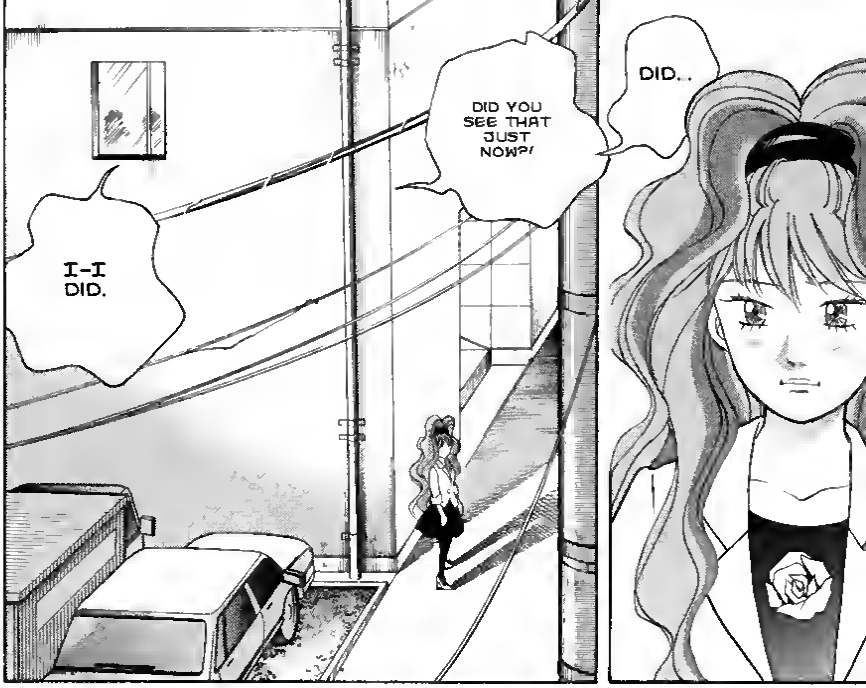

I GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW!
OKAY, TAKE CARE!
7"


SUNDAY EVENING...
SUNDAY!

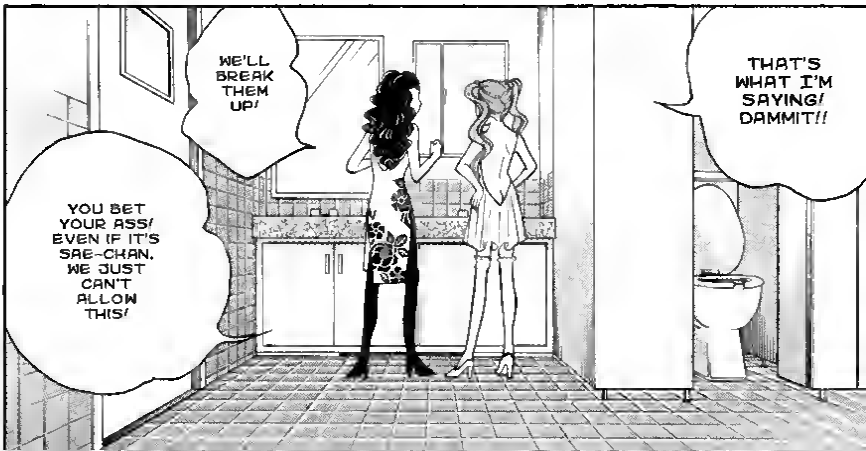

SAE-CHAN, WHEN CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?

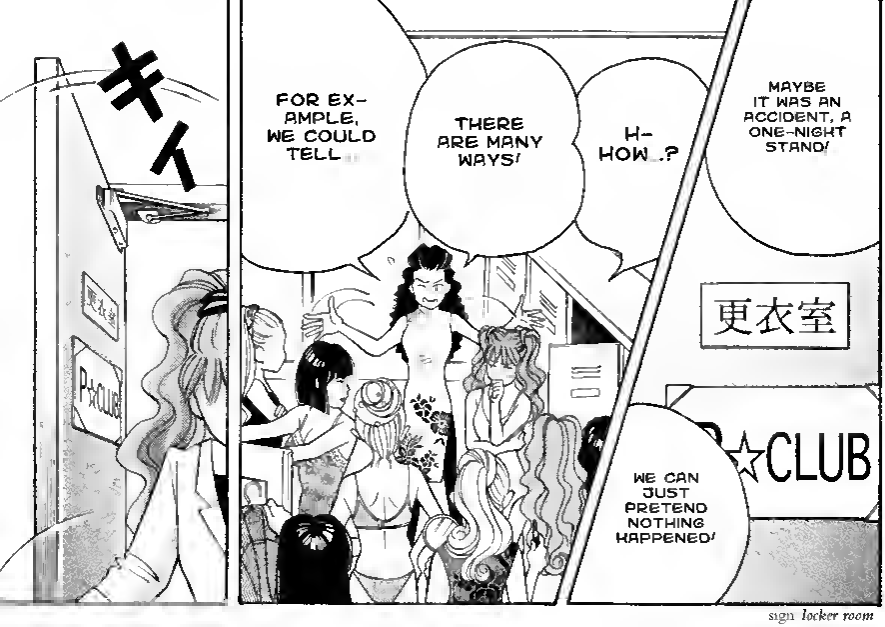

WHEN CAN I SEE KAI?
OH AND, MARIA...

ON SUNDAY EVENING...

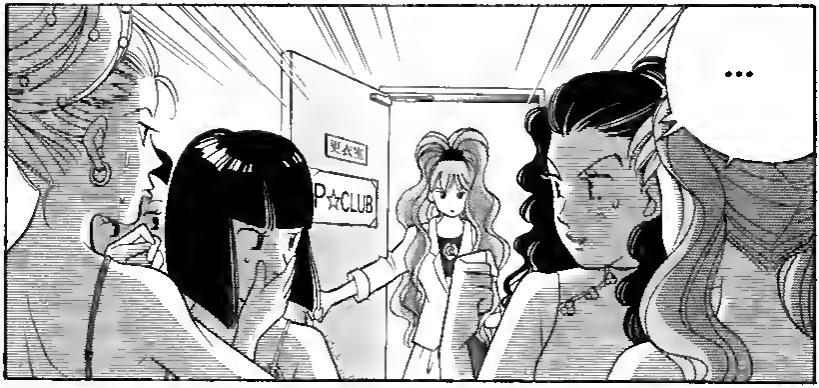

I-I DID.
DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW?!
DID..

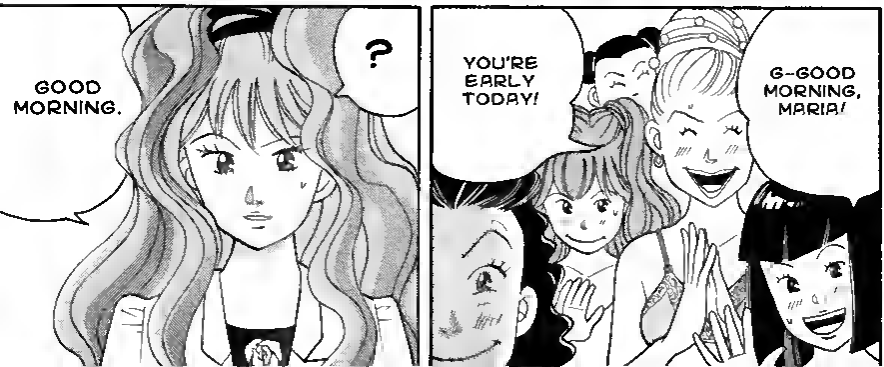
W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO?! THERE'S NO MISTAKING THOSE TWO ARE MALE AND FEMALE!
I REALLY WISH I HADN'T SEEN IT. THOUGH


YOU BET YOUR ASS! EVEN IF IT'S SAE-CHAN, WE JUST CAN'T ALLOW THIS!
WE'LL BREAK THEM UP!
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING! DAMMIT!!

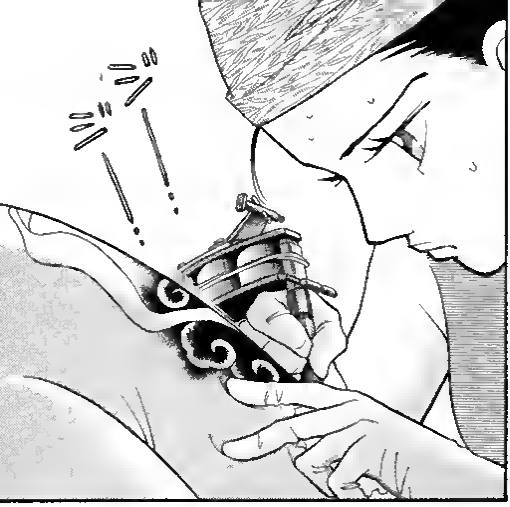


sign *locker room*





I-I CAN'T.. I CAN'T SAY ANY-THING TO KAI...
WHAT IF HE HATES US?!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT MIGHT COME BACK IN OUR FACES, AND CAUSE THEM TO GROW EVEN CLOSER!
THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
IT'S SIMPLE
THINK ABOUT IT!
THE ENEMY OF A WOMAN
IS OTHER WOMEN!



SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT SAE-CHAN?
COME ON GUYS, STOP THIS!
ドンッ

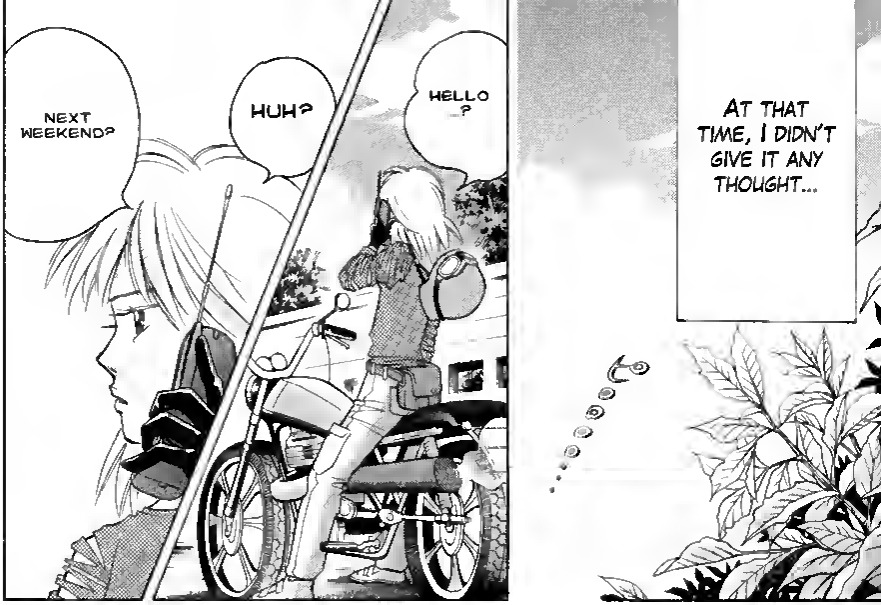
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY

ボウッ

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK
第2貸ビ

SORRY, BUT I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ON SUNDAY EVENING!
WILL YOU LET ME BOOK AN APPOINTMENT ON SUNDAY EVENING?
IF I PAY YOU TRIPLE...
YUP!
ANOTHER DATE?
I'VE REALLY FALLEN HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HIM!
I CAN SEE MARIA... NO, KAI, ON SUNDAY!

SUNDAY EVENINGS HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE PRECIOUS TO ME...
I WONDER IF I CAN WAIT TILL SUNDAY...
NEXT TIME IT'LL BE A REAL DATE!
KYAAH! ♡
THIS BLISSFUL FEELING WOULD END SO SOON...
BUT WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT ...

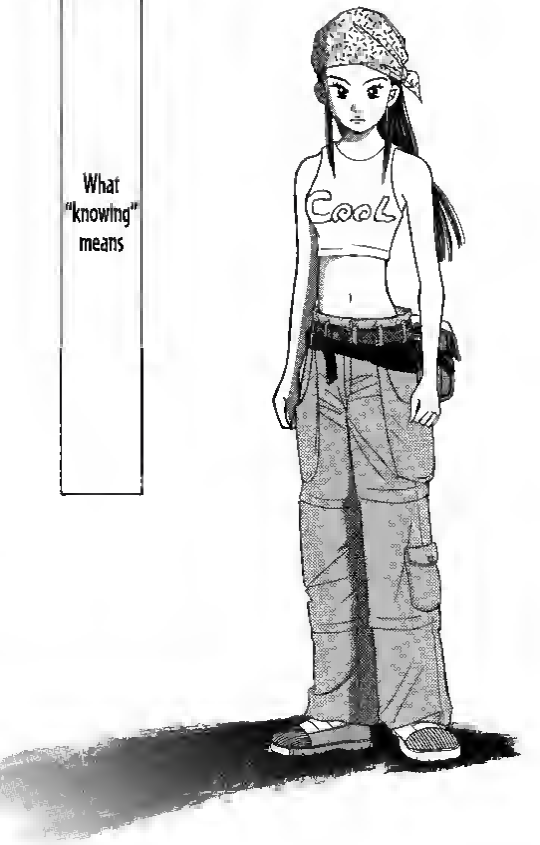

NEXT WEEKEND?
HUH?
HELLO ?
AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T GIVE IT ANY THOUGHT...

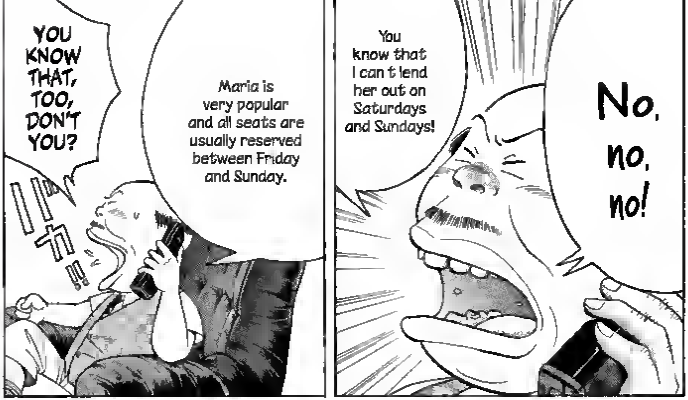
YEAH! YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY OVERNIGHT
I M SO SORRY ABOUT THE LATE NOTICE BUT I M BEGGING YOU!
I ONLY SAID YES BECAUSE THEY PROM-ISED TO PAY DOUBLE

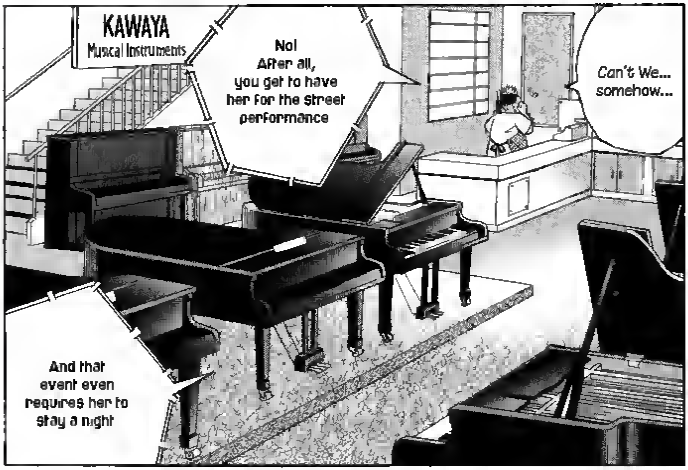
IF ONLY I HAD SAE-CHAN'S CELL PHONE NUMBER...
AL-RIGHT
I GOT PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER OF P-CLUB ..

Chapter 77

What "knowing" means

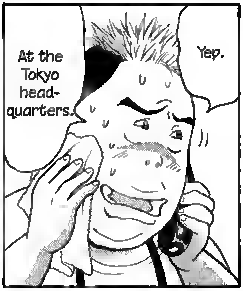


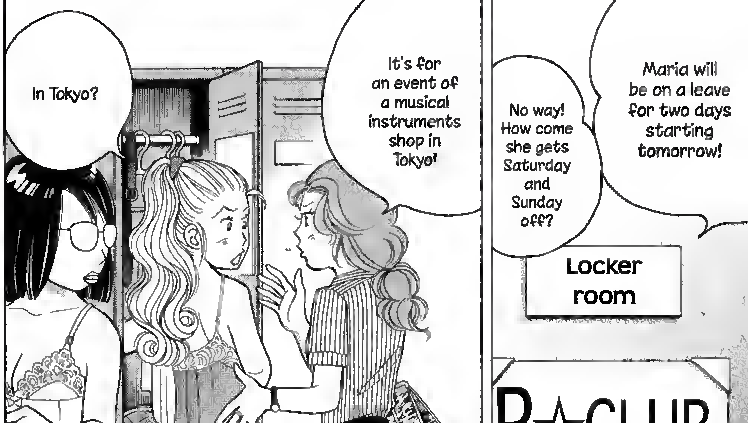

YOU KNOW THAT, TOO, DON'T YOU?
Maria is very popular and all seats are usually reserved between Friday and Sunday.
You know that I can't lend her out on Saturdays and Sundays!
No, no, no!

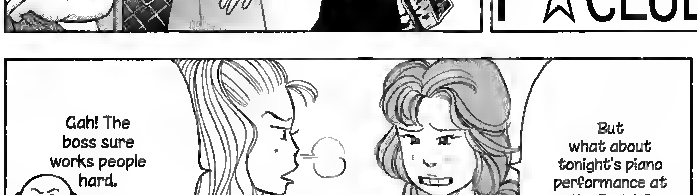

KAWAYA
Musical Instruments
No! After all, you get to have her for the street performance
Can't We... somehow...
And that event even requires her to stay a night

The fellows working on the preparations had an unexpected cancellation and...
The celebration for the 30th anniversary of Kawaya Music Instruments at the Tokyo headquarters.
Ah... It's for...

T/N NOTE: THE SIGN BEHIND THE OLD MAN MEANS BELIEVER.




Maria will be on a leave for two days starting tomorrow!
No way! How come she gets Saturday and Sunday off?
Locker room
P☆CLUB
It's for an event of a musical instruments shop in Tokyo!
In Tokyo?


But what about tonight's piano performance at the P-club?
Gah! The boss sure works people hard.

He even goes as far as to use Maria to start up a place in Tokyo.
It's good that the business expanded... But the sales don't seem to be very good at all...
That's true! Our share in the market is something completely different...

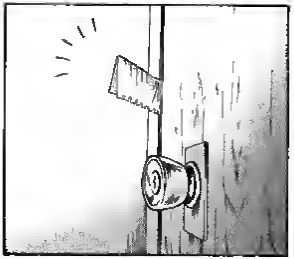
コン
コン
コン
コン
201
岸上
I'll leave her a note
For the time being.
Sae-chan, I'm sorry!
I'll be in Tokyo on Saturday and Sunday for an urgent job
Please give me a call on my cell later
090-80xx-0x66
Kai
I guess she's not here

カンカンカン
有井

Tonight...
I wonder if Sae-chan will come back tonight

On top of that, this time it will be a public one and you need to bear with it until saturday. Especially, since it's going to be a public event.
I'm sorry Sae-chan...
For sending you on business trips every week.
It's fine, please don't think like that.
I can earn my keep that way every week.
And it's fine if I get back on before 8 o'clock on Sunday!
Ah... I guess you're gonna go see another pianist then.
Yes! It's something that cleans my soul!
Hm...
I wonder if it's only that...

I don't think that there are any detuned notes left...
Ah... I want onee-san to hear it once too.



She hasn't come back, yet.

But it should be fine if she notices the note.

Ahahah, you gotta talk, man. You aren't even driving the car!
Damn, I couldn't even move an inch since the early morning.

What the...?
As if the "Pierrots" fame is going to bring us jobs at midday in the suburbs.
Moreover, we're going to play for 6 hours in "pierrot" costumes in this harsh, lingering summer heat.

Kai is scheduled to play at the Tokyo branch of the P-Club after playing the gig with us.
Well,

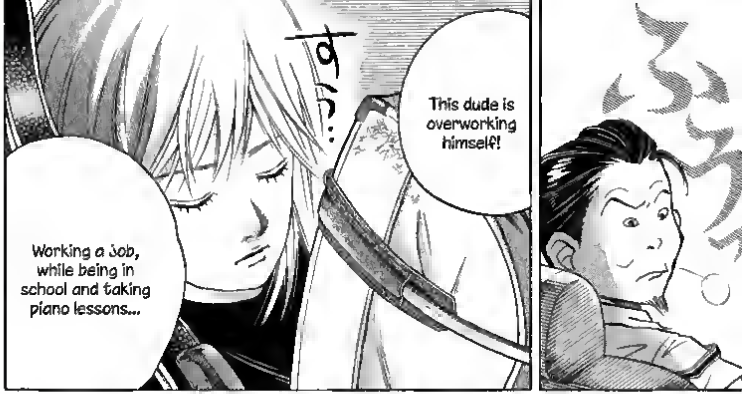
What is Maria's costume doing in here?

He might wake up, you know.
Keep it down!
KAWA'

So harsh...
NO WAY!

Z Z Z
Man...

Ah...


すごい…
This dude is overworking himself!
Working a job, while being in school and taking piano lessons...
ふふふ

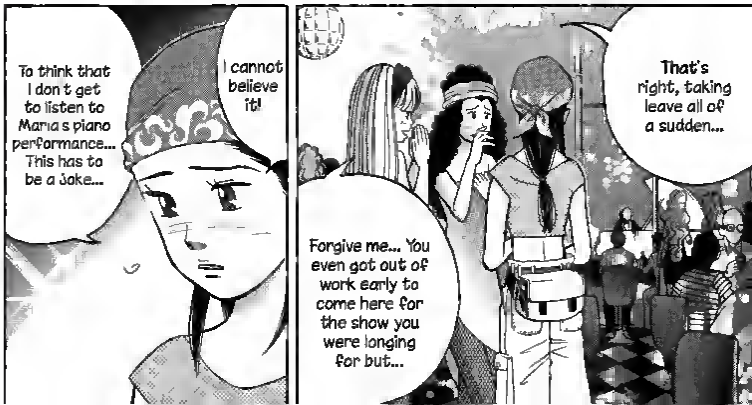
And the volume of his studies is extraordinarily high, he's studying together with the gifted kids.
Kai says that he still spends most of his time on the piano.
He has to be on top of the class all the time.

Whoa! I really wonder how he divides his time...
カワヤ楽器
Man, I can't believe this! This fella is only 16, you know?

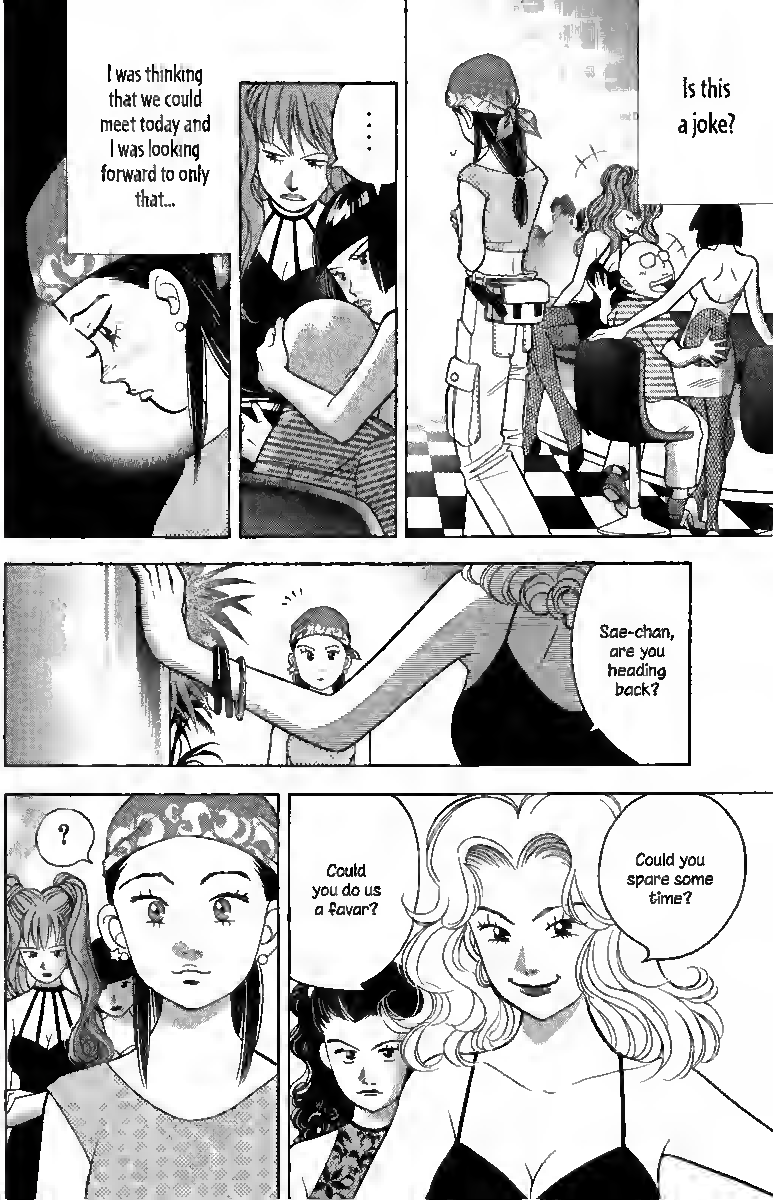
Oh God! when can I take a break?
カワヤ楽器 創業30周年
KAWAYA 30年感謝祭
世界介展

R☆UB

Maria is on leave?
EH?


To think that I don't get to listen to Maria's piano performance... This has to be a joke...
I cannot believe it!
That's right, taking leave all of a sudden...
Forgive me... You even got out of work early to come here for the show you were longing for but...

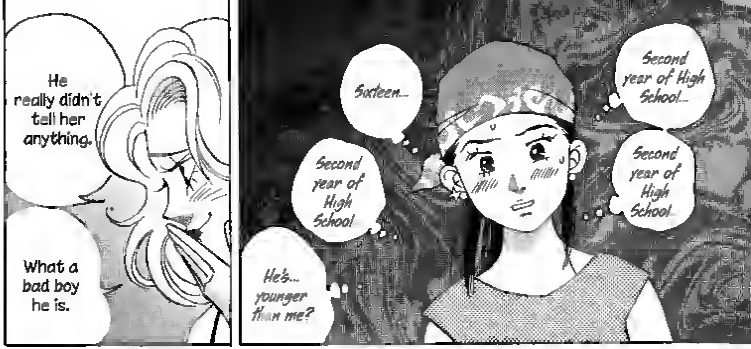
Really... Maria-chan is taking a break on Sunday.
You know, this should be the first time this happened.
He even promised..
Did something happen?
If those two don't contact each other beforehand, does that mean that...
The relationship between those two... could still be broken easily?
DON'T MESS WITH ME!
Oh c'mon, it's all because there are lots of Maria's fans around...
W...We are terribly sorry, sir!
We were also suddenly notified about her leave... That's why we couldn't let you know last week.
Sensei~!! Oh no, such a waste of flowers!
ドカーン

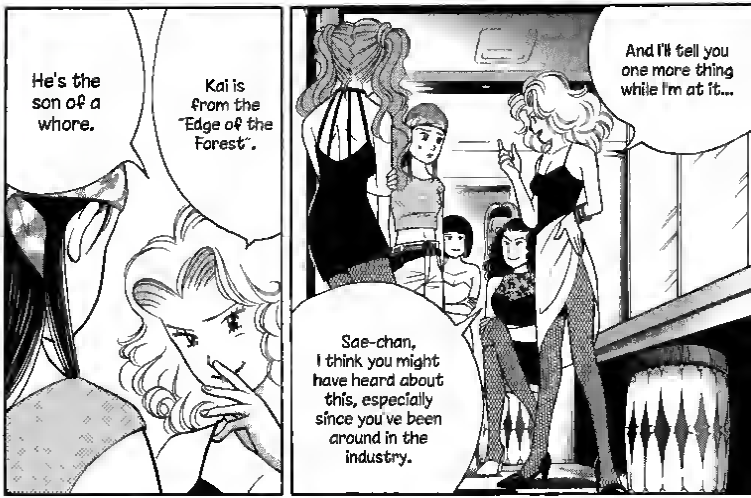

I was thinking that we could meet today and I was looking forward to only that...
...
Is this a joke?
Sae-chan, are you heading back?
?
Could you do us a favar?
Could you spare some time?

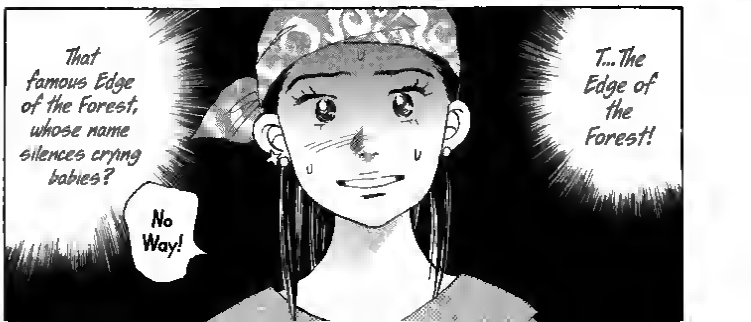
You went out with Maria for some drinks, but I don't know what happened afterwards...
Last Sunday...
I don't wanna be mean but, could you please act as if none of this ever happened?
EH?
I'll be frank... Can you...
Stay away from Maria... Or Kai, in other words!

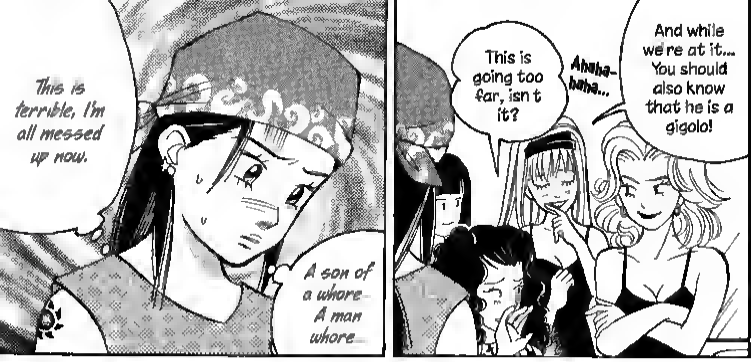
You see... we had to cancel last Sunday's schedule so that kid...
...seems to have ended up in a sticky situation with Sae-chan.
I'm sorry! It was my turn on Sunday, but I wasn't feeling well.
So Soe-chan, you kept him company in my place, didn't you?
W...What is this all about?
You're a bit thick headed, aren't you?
That kid belongs to us.
EH?
Fufu... He's our daily special.
Exactly! Well, we are also his guardians at the same time though...
W What the hell is this? What's going on...?
Boy...? Daily special...?
G...

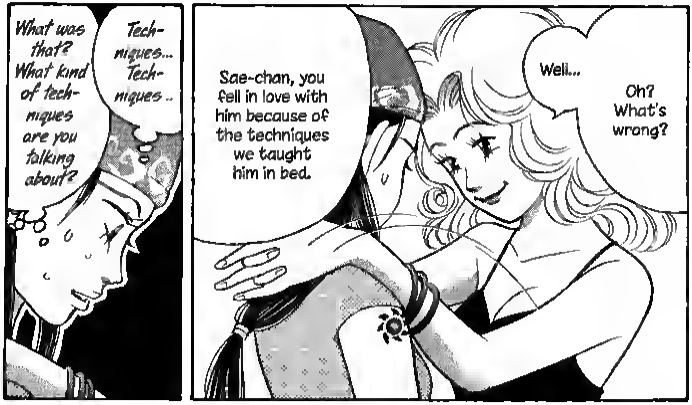
He's in the second year of High School!
That kid is only 16 years old.
You... still don't get it, even after sleeping with him, do you?
You know, Sae-chan...
Excuse me, but you shouldn't talk about stuff like that behind his back!
Guardians... For a mature man?
Ahahah...
Showing ID isn't the only way in, you know.
It's all about looking old enough!
Anyway, entry to the P-Club is denied to anyone under 20 years of age, isn't it?
H...Hold on for a second...
Sixteen!?
S...
The second year of High School.

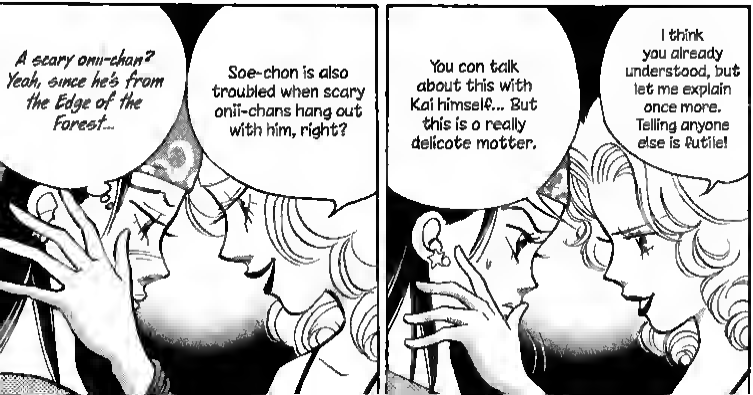

He really didn't tell her anything.
What a bad boy he is.
Sixteen...
Second year of High School
He's... younger than me?
Second year of High School...
Second year of High School


He's the son of a whore.
Kai is from the "Edge of the Forest".
And I'll tell you one more thing while I'm at it...
Sae-chan, I think you might have heard about this, especially since you've been around in the industry.


That famous Edge of the Forest, whose name silences crying babies?
No Way!
T...The Edge of the Forest!


This is terrible, I'm all messed up now.
A son of a whore... A man whore...
This is going too far, isn't it?
Ahaha-haha...
And while we're at it... You should also know that he is a gigolo!

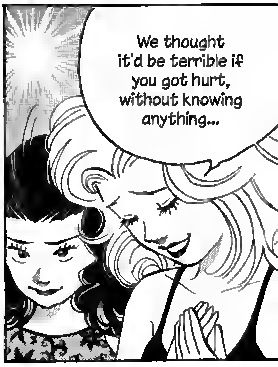

What was that? What kind of techniques are you talking about?
Techniques... Techniques...
Sae-chan, you fell in love with him because of the techniques we taught him in bed.
Well...
Oh? What's wrong?

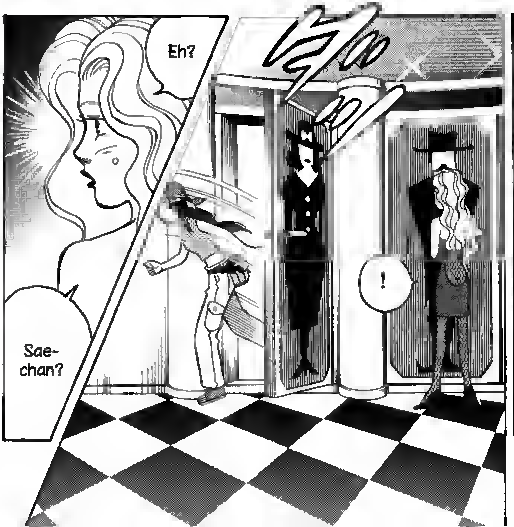

A scary onii-chan? Yeah, since he's from the Edge of the Forest...
Soe-chon is also troubled when scary onii-chans hang out with him, right?
You can talk about this with Kai himself... But this is a really delicate matter.
I think you already understood, but let me explain once more. Telling anyone else is futile!

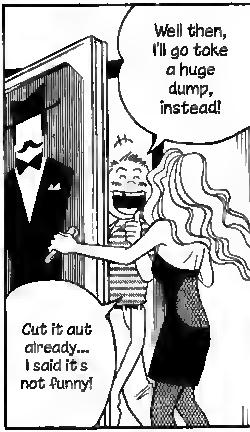
We aren't telling you this because we hate you, Sae-chan.
Instead, it's the opposite!

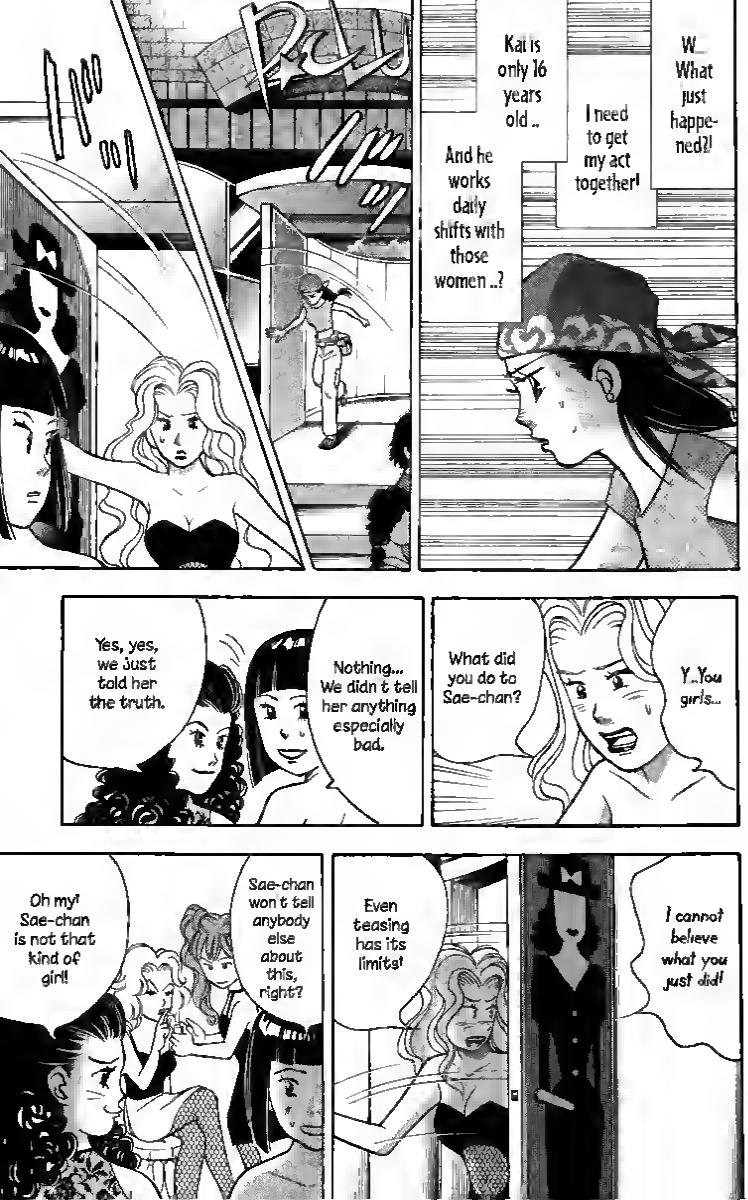
You are free to think whatever you like!
But unfortunately, everything I said just now is true.

I... I thought you were harboring a grudge against me.
Ah... I see...

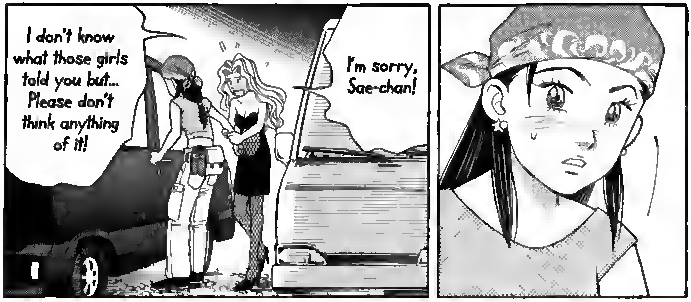

We thought it'd be terrible if you got hurt, without knowing anything...


Eh?
Sae-chan?
!

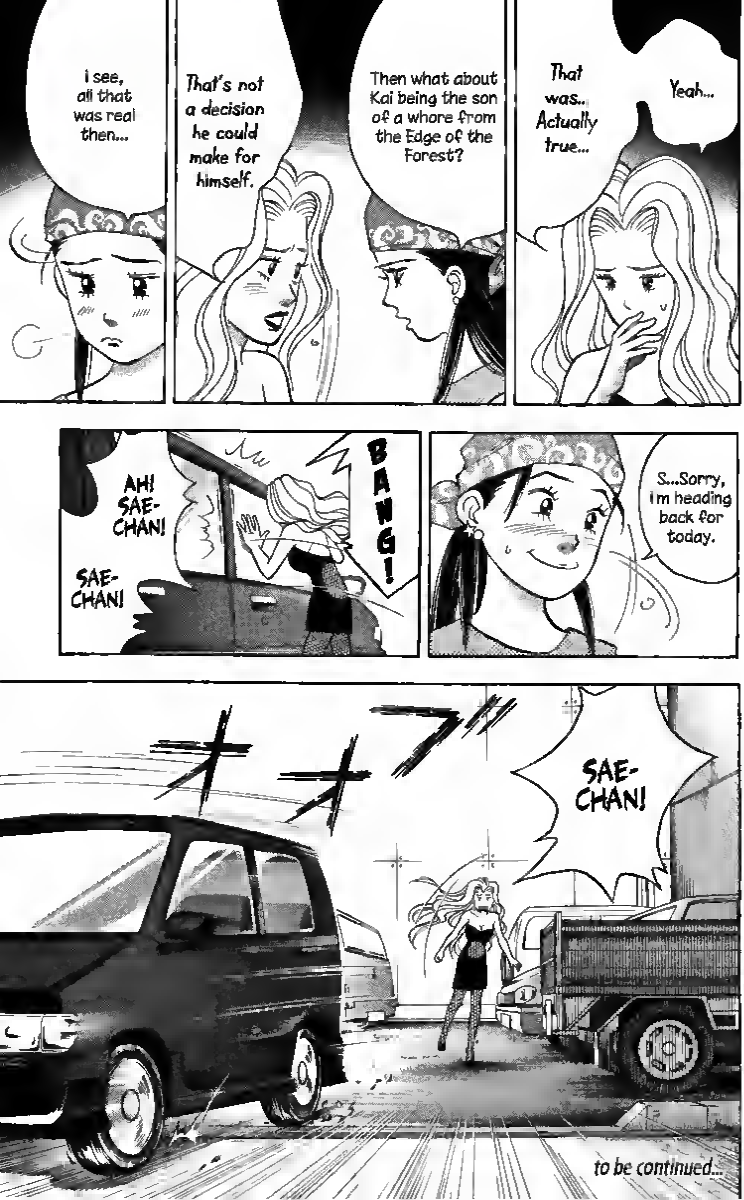

Well then, I'll go take a huge dump, instead!
Cut it out already... I said it's not funny!


W... What just happened?!
I need to get my act together!
Kat is only 16 years old ..
And he works daily shifts with those women ..?
Y..You girls...
What did you do to Sae-chan?
Nothing... We didn't tell her anything especially bad.
Yes, yes, we just told her the truth.
I cannot believe what you just did!
Even teasing has its limits!
Sae-chan won't tell anybody else about this, right?
Oh my! Sae-chan is not that kind of girl!

SAE-CHAN, PLEASE WAIT!


I don't know what those girls told you but... Please don't think anything of it!
I'm sorry, Sae-chan!

Eh?
Is Kai... really only 16 years old?
Is Maria ...
because they talk of nothing but lies!
There's no use in taking them seriously...


I see, all that was real then...
That's not a decision he could make for himself.
Then what about Kai being the son of a whore from the Edge of the Forest?
That was.. Actually true...
Yeah...
AH! SAE-CHAN!
SAE-CHAN!
BANG!
S...Sorry, I'm heading back for today.
SAE-CHAN!
to be continued...

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto

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Piano No Mori Ch 77

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Chapter 78
You idiot! Moron! Airhead!
Maria is actually a boy named Kai...

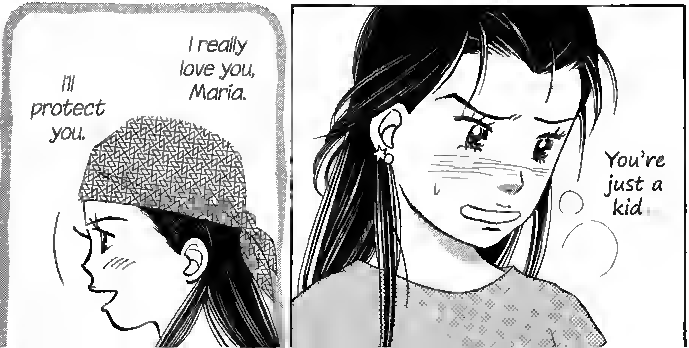
He is 16 years old...
And the son of a prostitute from the Edge of the Forest...
How stupid, Sae-chan...
You didn't notice even after we slept together...
that he's also like a gigolo...
So you could say...
Ahahah
Sorry!
So Sae-chan, you kept him company in my place, didn't you?
Working shifts with these women every night...
You're a bit thick headed, aren't you?
fufu~
That kid belongs to us.

Sae-chan, you fell in love with him because of the techniques we taught him in bed.
So.. How was it?
What technique?
What kind of technique was there?
They weren't being nice...
It was actually...
...really cruel.
I should have told them that!

You idiot!
Sorry, Sae-chan!
I have to go to Tokyo this weekend for an urgent job.
Call me on my cell later.
090-80xx-0x64
Kai
First I thought you were a girl, but you're actually a guy!
Why is everything you told me a lie?!
I thought you were older than me, but you aren't!

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR ORIGINS?!
JUST BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER IS A WHORE...

DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO BE THE SAME! IDIOT!
YOU PLAYED WITH ME LIKE IT WAS NOTHING...

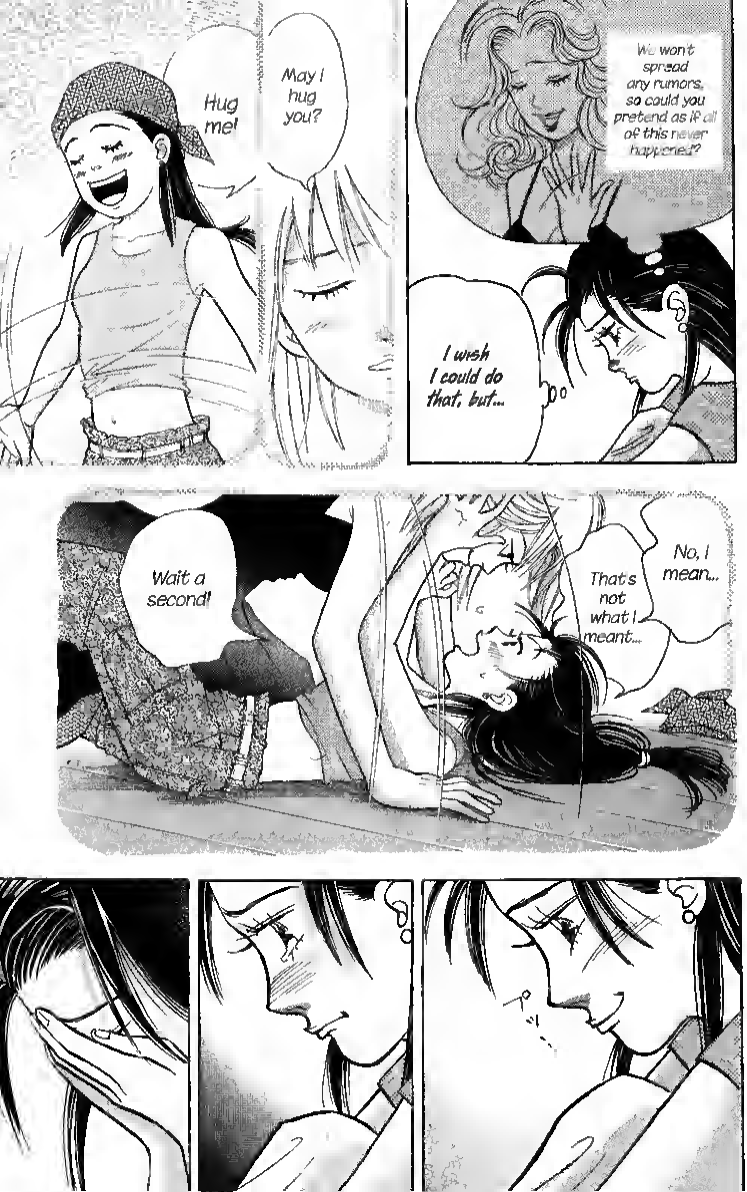

I'll protect you.
I really love you, Maria.
You're just a kid.

Sae, I love you.
IDIOT!
I was treated like a moron, just because of you!
KNOCK KNOCK
Excuse me...
I'm Matsushita from next door...

It was just... a little to loud in here...
Especially the stream of "idiots"... I'm retaking the college entrance exams, so...
AH...
I'M...
I'M SORRY.
I... It's okay.
I'm sorry I bothered you.

カラ
……

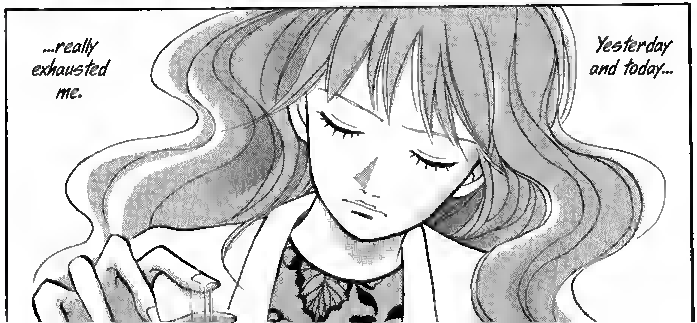
Do you understand? Never go anywhere near the Edge of the Forest, Sae!
Grandpa told me over and over again while he was alive...
The Edge of the Forest...
You can't come back to the real world ever again!
If you are kidnapped and taken to the Edge of the Forest it's all over
Why did you look so lonely?
Did Kai run away from the Edge of the Forest?
Maria


Hug me!
May I hug you?
We won't spread any rumors, so could you pretend as if all of this never happened?
I wish I could do that, but...
Wait a second!
That's not what I meant...
No, I mean...
P-!...

My love was lost...
Maria...
Stupid Kai.
Give me back...

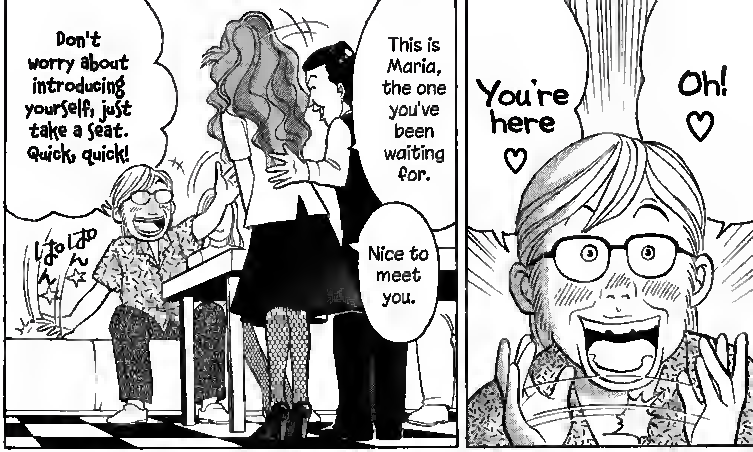
cafe's
PUB
JAPAN
welcome~ ♡
It'S been a while~ ♡

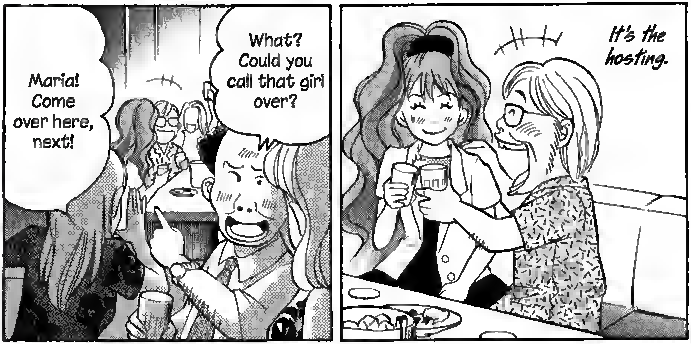
Wow, a really cute girl just walked in!
Can I call that pianist over...
To this table?
Uhuhu...
If you want to...
♡

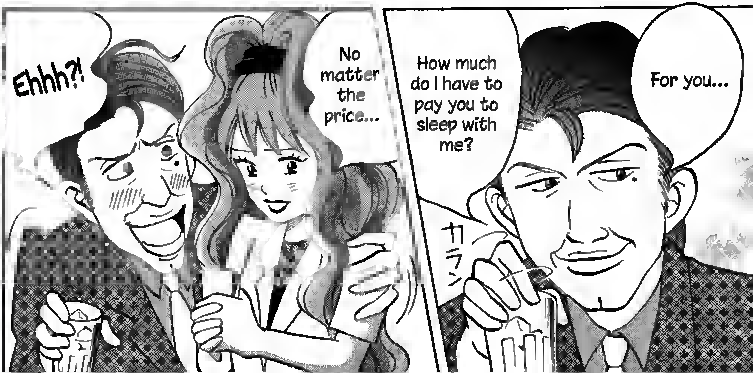

Yesterday and today...
...really exhausted me.

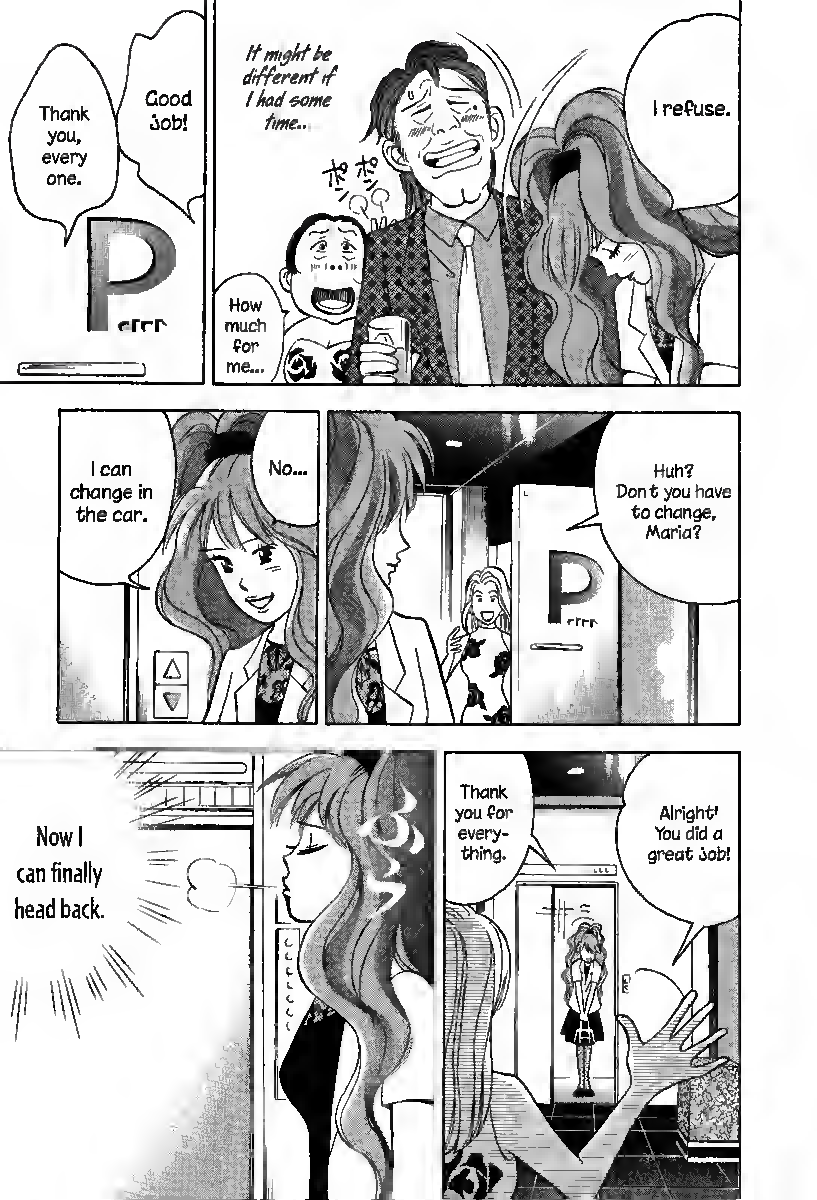
30
The reason I'm tired...
...Is not because of the long performance during the day...

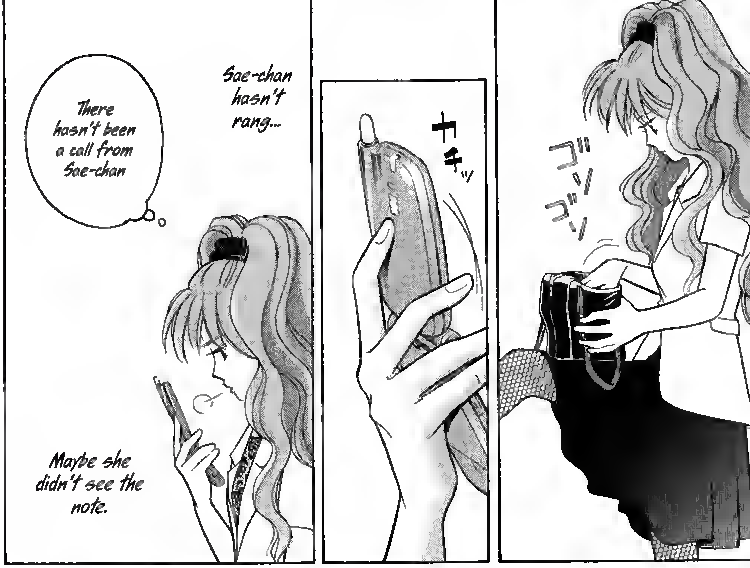
...nor because of playing the piano here.


Don't worry about introducing yourself, just take a seat. Quick, quick!
This is Maria, the one you've been waiting for.
Nice to meet you.
You're here
Oh!


Maria! Come over here, next!
What? Could you call that girl over?
It's the hosting.

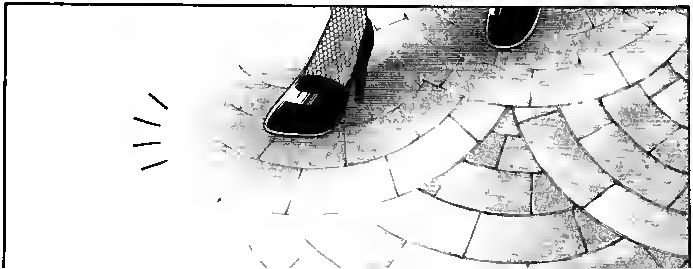

Ehhh?!
No matter the price...
How much do I have to pay you to sleep with me?
For you...
カラン


Good job!
Thank you, every one.
P
It might be different if I had some time..
ポン
ポン
How much for me...
I refuse.
I can change in the car.
No...
Huh? Don't you have to change, Maria?
P
Now I can finally head back.
ふう
Thank you for every-thing.
Alright! You did a great job!


There hasn't been a call from Sae-chan
Sae-chan hasn't rang...
Maybe she didn't see the note.
ピッ
ゴソゴソ

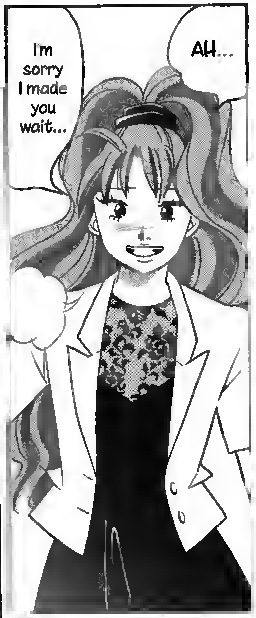
2:15
1 voicemail

I missed Ajino's lesson for the first time in five years.
Your phone went straight to voicemail. Call me as soon as you get back.
I know...
Hello, this is Ajino speaking.

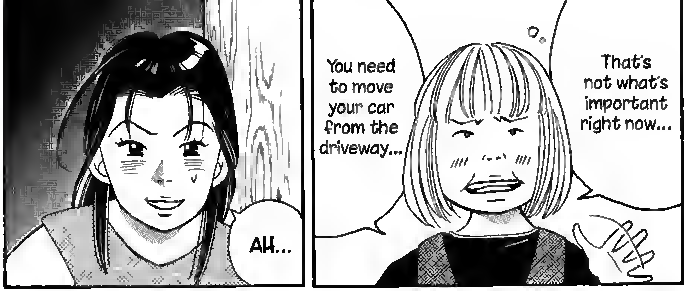
What...
Am I even doing... here...
If you want to hear this message again
I want to see Sae!


Good Job!
You're late!

I'm really heading back now.
It sure wos two long days...
Looks like we'll get back just in time for school...


Ah...
I'm sorry I made you wait...

Are you there, Kishigami-san?
Kishigami-san.
201
有井
Oh no...
I fell asleep, crying like this...
Ah... Ooya-san
What's wrong? So early in the morning...

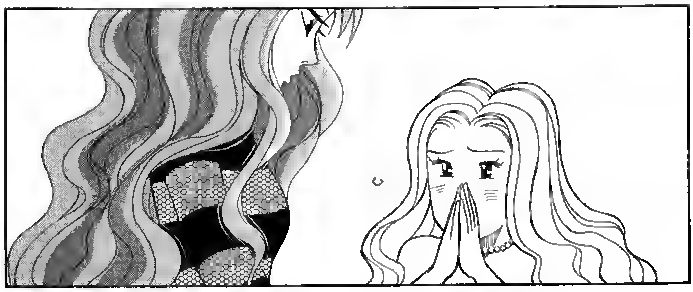

Ah...
You need to move your car from the driveway...
That's not what's important right now...

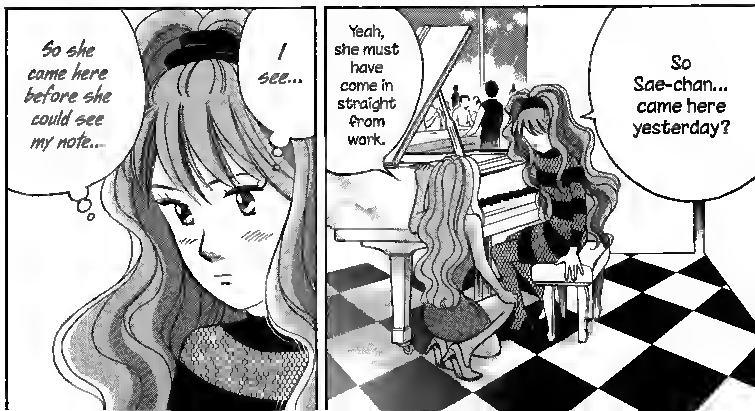
I...I'm sorry, I'll move it right away!
I mean really...
It's no issue if you hit the fence, but you can't just leave it there!

Nobody could get to work, since the driveway was blocked.
Are you forcing everybody to arrive late at work on a Monday morning?

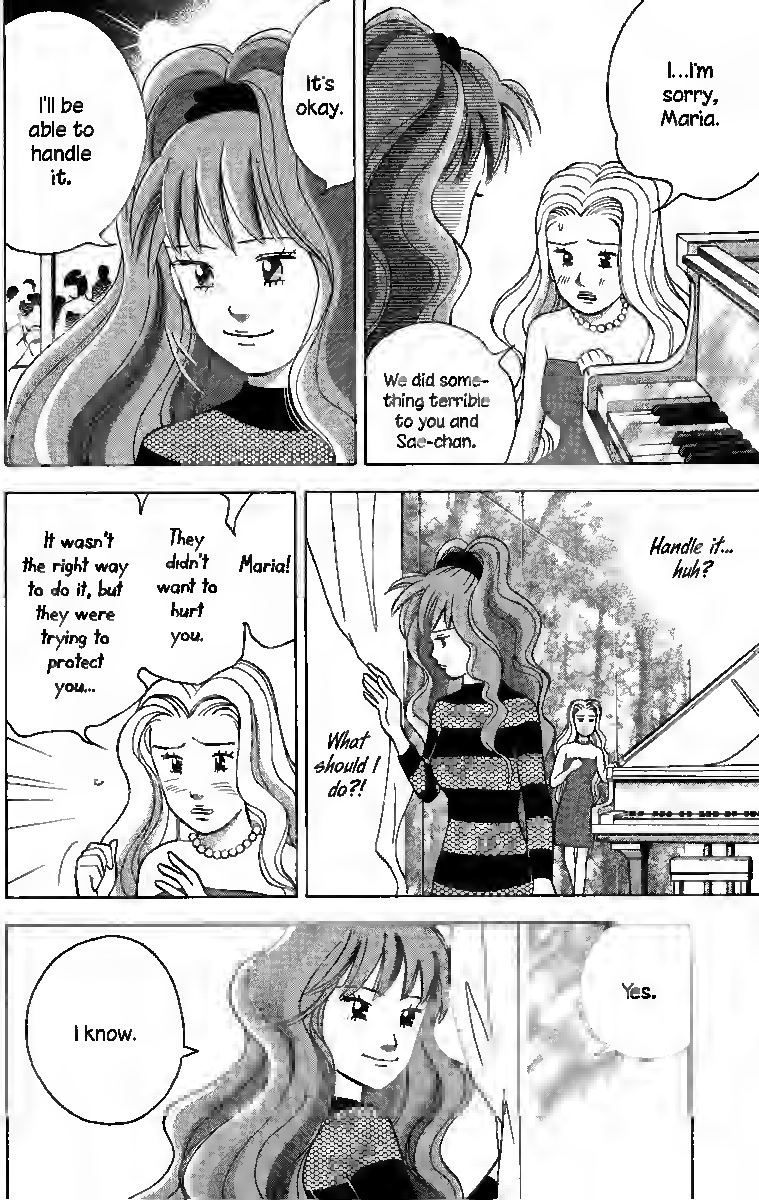
No, no!
Nothing is working out for me.
My eyes...
...are extremely swollen.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?!
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE BOSS'S ORDERS?
No — it's just that I cried myself to sleep and now my eyes are swollen.
真締商会
DAUK

Sorry! I'm really sorry!
CLUB




So she came here before she could see my note...
I see...
Yeah, she must have come in straight from work.
So Sae-chan... came here yesterday?

I tried to stop her but... she left...
by telling her some harsh things...
I think they hurt Sae-chan's feelings...
and if you're really from the Edge of the Forest and..
She asked if you were really 16...
So what did Sae-chan say?
All...
the son of a bitch...?


I'll be able to handle it.
It's okay.
We did something terrible to you and Sae-chan.
I...I'm sorry, Maria.
It wasn't the right way to do it, but they were trying to protect you...
They didn't want to hurt you.
Maria!
What should I do?!
Handle it... huh?
I know.
Yes.

Sae-chan, I'm sorry!
I didn't mean to lie to you.
Sae-chan!

I ended up...

Hurting you.

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto

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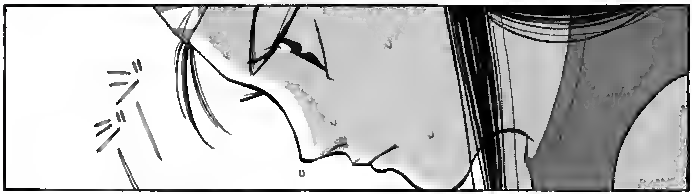
Chapter
79
Drifting



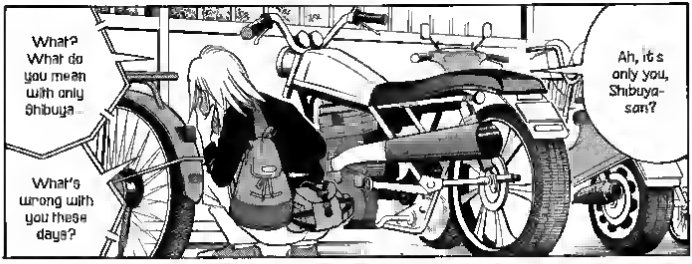
Really?!
You can offer an appointment on Sunday night?
Wow! That's really great.
I'll pay you triple the amount!

I...
it's not as if I offer a superior service.
What? You just want the regular price?
I'm sorry.
Before you say that, you should pay back the money you owe me.
And you're not thinking of charging more for it, are you?!
I can really extend into Sunday night?
Knock
Knock

She's still not back.
Knock Knock
Everything is bleak and monotonous in my life
I'm sick of everything...
And I feel terrible...

unfold
201
Sae-chan
I m sorry about last Sunday
I'll definitely be there this week
So please come to the club!
Cell phone: 090-80xx- x66
Kai
This sixteen year old kid is still not done harassing me...
I won't go to the club anymore.
Plus, I already have a full appointment schedule for Sunday

Ah, it's me...
Hello! Ichinose speaking...

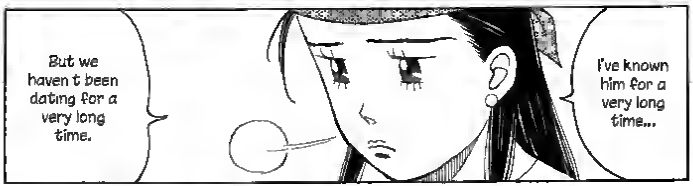

What? What do you mean with only Shibuya-
What's wrong with you these days?
Ah, it's only you, Shibuya-san?

Sae-chan.
Of course, I called to talk about next week's schedule
Ahaha, sorry... So what's the matter?

Those notes I borrowed from you...
Could I keep them a little longer?
Yeah, sure.
Ichinose!
I'll just have to wait until Sunday...
Yes!
Of course you're not happy, if you just got out of a relationship.

Time is the best remedy.
It'll happen even sooner.
If you haven't been going out for very long ..
Your mood will be completely changed.

Just get your act together for a couple of months.
You need to give yourself time!


But we haven't been dating for a very long time.
I've known him for a very long time...

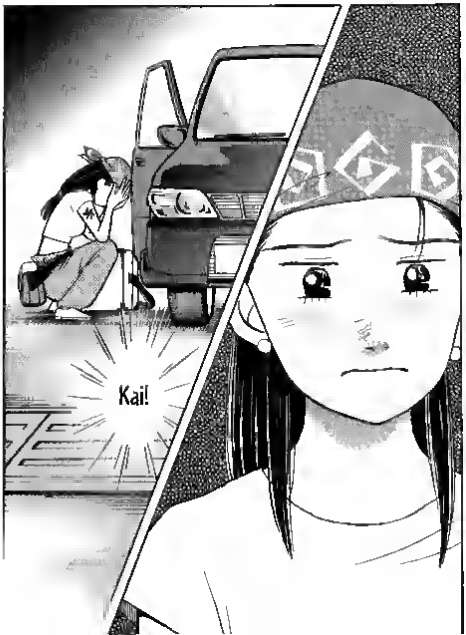
They've opened a new piano school here.
AH...

*SIGN PIANO SCHOOL

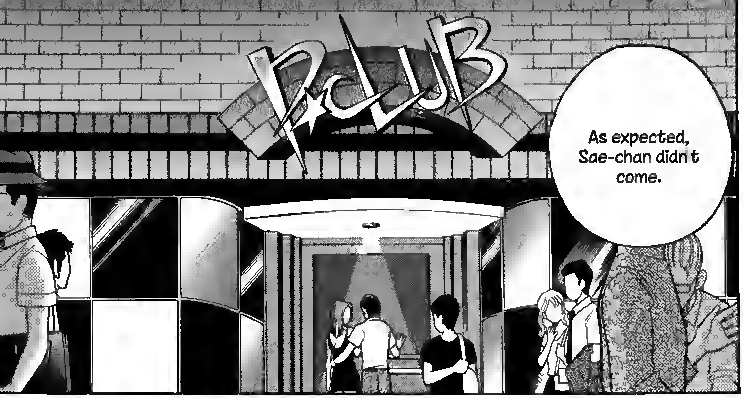
PIANO
This doesn't do.
.....

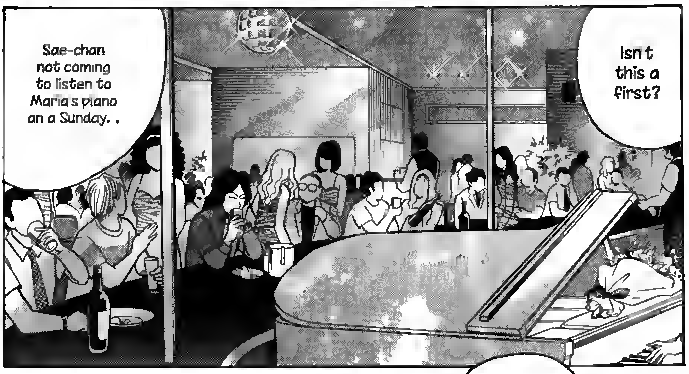
Will I ever have a reason to go back to the P-CLUB?
It's fine. I don't look forward to it anymore, so...
That's the day you always look forward to all week...
Is it really okay if I schedule another appointment on a Sunday night?
I feel pretty guilty...
第2貸ビ
I want to see Maria.
If only things could go back to the way they were before...
!

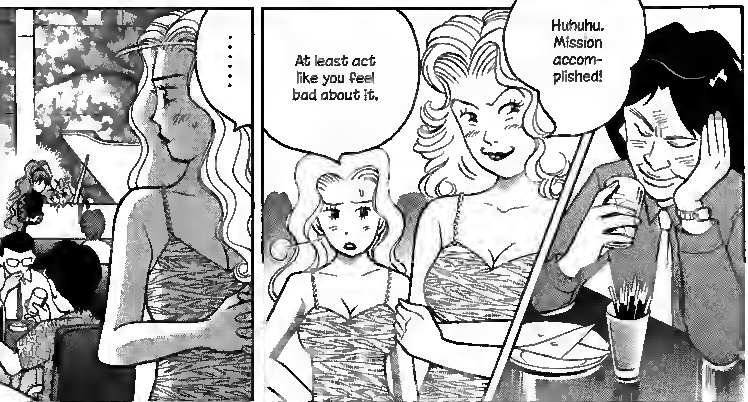
Ahaha~


Kai!

...


PUB
As expected, Sae-chan didn't come.

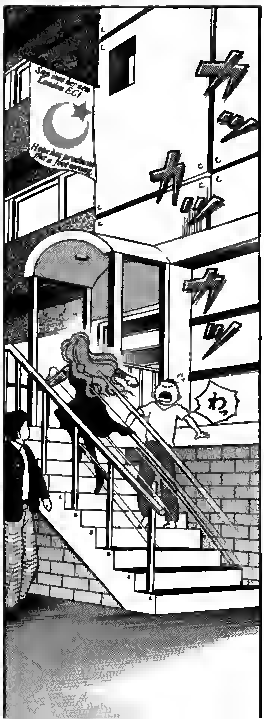

Sae-chan not coming to listen to Maria's piano on a Sunday. .
Isn't this a first?

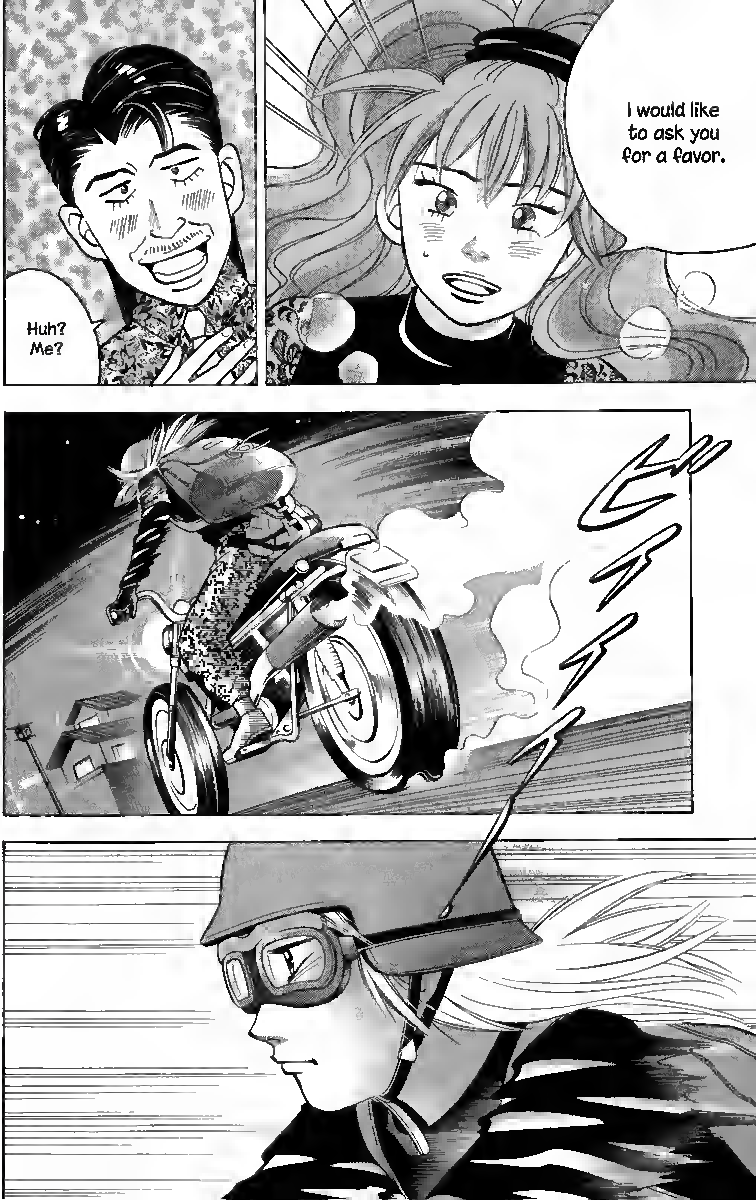

. . . . . .
At least act like you feel bad about it.
Huhuhu. Mission accomplished!

Sae-chan!
Bu
P

Over there..

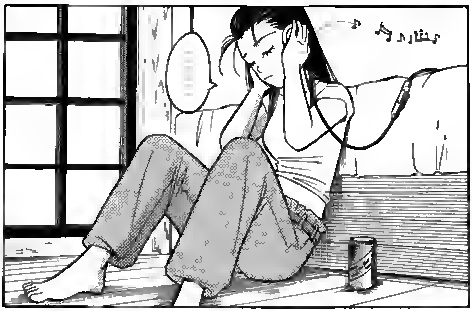
Maria-san!!
AH...
Master

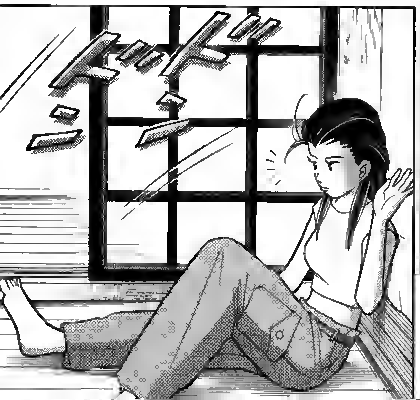

カン
カン
カン
わっ

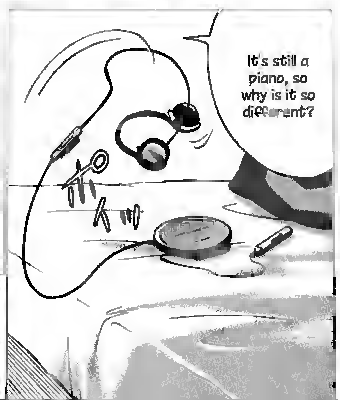

I would like to ask you for a favor.
Huh? Me?
Eeeee

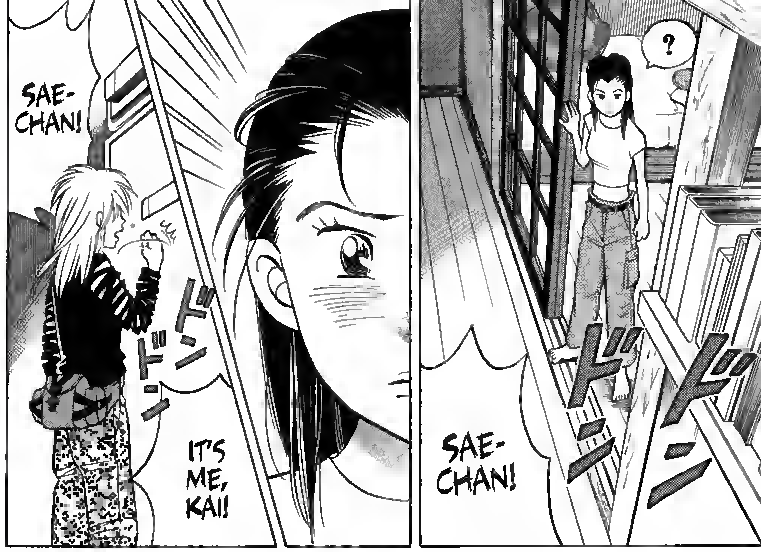
有荘

It's just not the same.





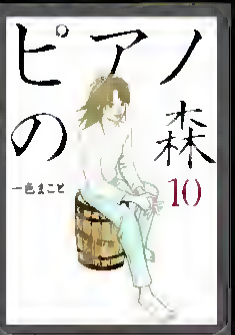

It's still a piano, so why is it so different?


SAE-CHAN!
ドンドン
IT'S ME, KAI!
?
ドドーン
SAE-CHAN!

YOU ARE IN THERE, RIGHT?
SAE-CHAN.
ドドーン
Drifting END

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto



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Piano No Mori Ch 79

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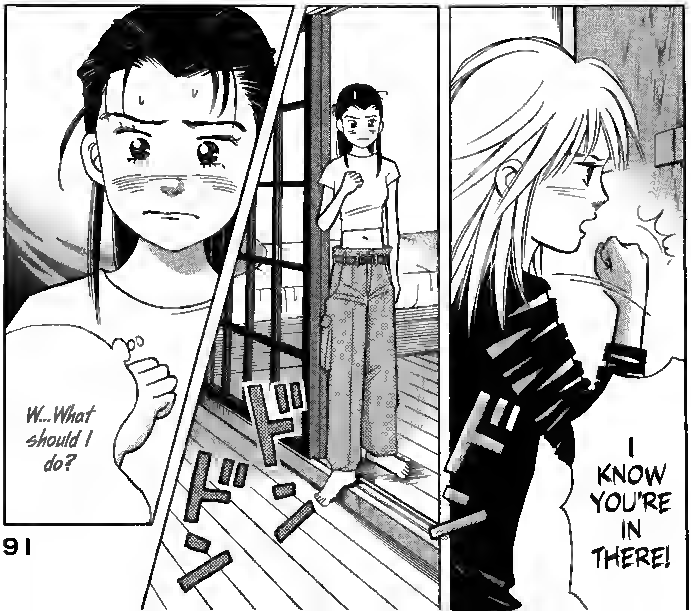
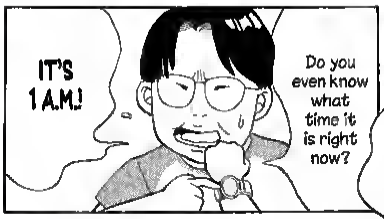
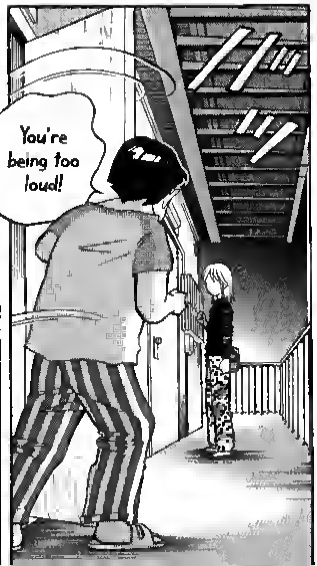
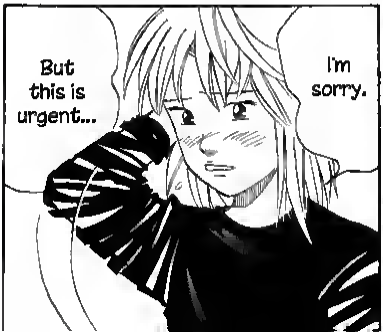
ドンドン
SAE-CHAN!
Chapter 80
Someday, the two of us...


W...What should I do?
ドンドン
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

flash
flash
ドドド
有住


IT'S 1 A.M.!
Do you even know what time it is right now?

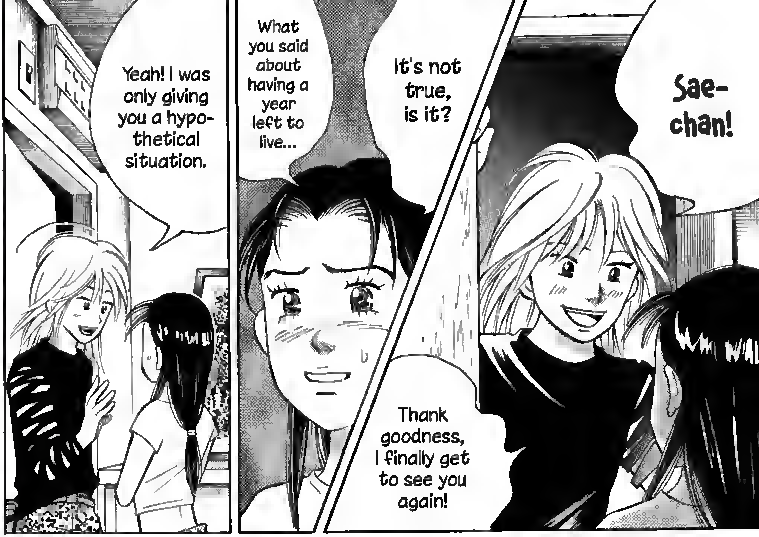

You're being too loud!

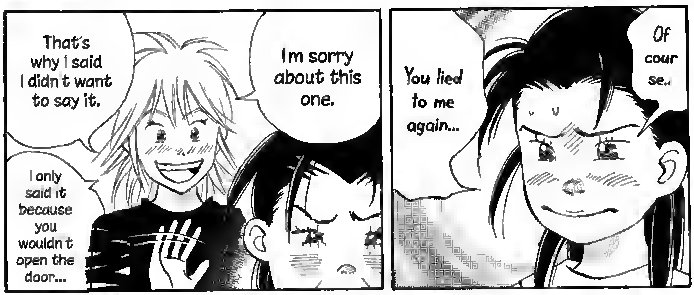

But this is urgent...
I'm sorry.

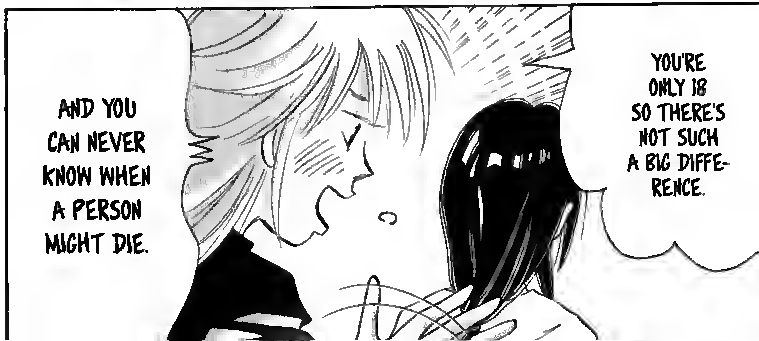
Eh? An urgent situation?
Is someone's life on the line?
Well, no...
Now that you mention it, Kishigami-san has been acting strange lately...
Could it be...
A SUICIDE ?!
EH?
Don't say things like that!
WAH!
Ah, she's alive.

Why did you come here? Go away!
Because Sae-chan didn't come to the club today...
Yeah, just go away
Ah, sorry. I wan't be caming any-mare.
I dan't have that much maney anyway...
I didn't mean to hide my age.
I just missed the chance to tell you...
But you're still a kid if you're 16!
Yeah, it's fine.
Since I lied about my age too.
Well, let's think abaut it again in 10 years when we're both adults.

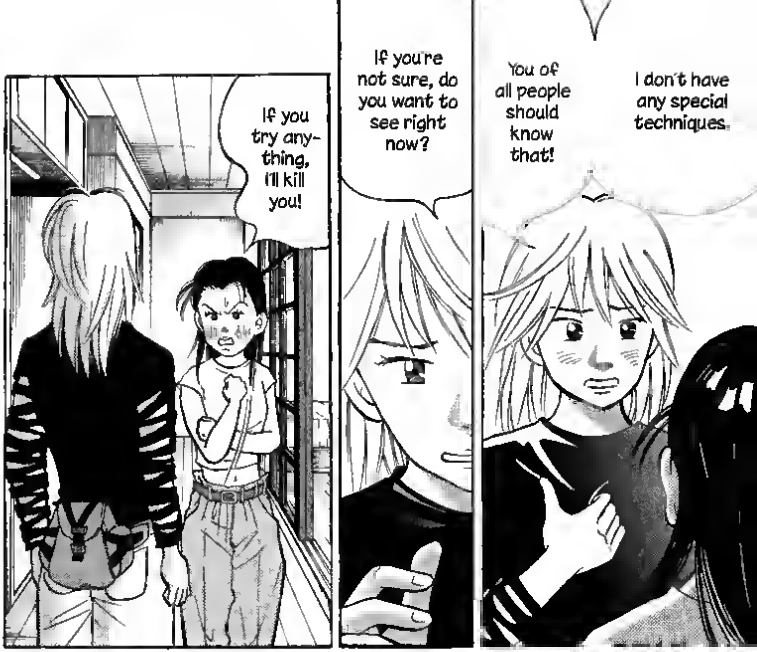
Even if my doctor told me I only have one more year to live?
Would you tell me to come back in 10 years...
I don't really want to say this, but...
CLICK
201
...True?
Is that...


Yeah! I was only giving you a hypothetical situation.
What you said about having a year left to live...
It's not true, is it?
Sae-chan!
Thank goodness, I finally get to see you again!


That's why I said I didn't want to say it.
I only said it because you wouldn't open the door...
I'm sorry about this one.
You lied to me again...
Of cour se..

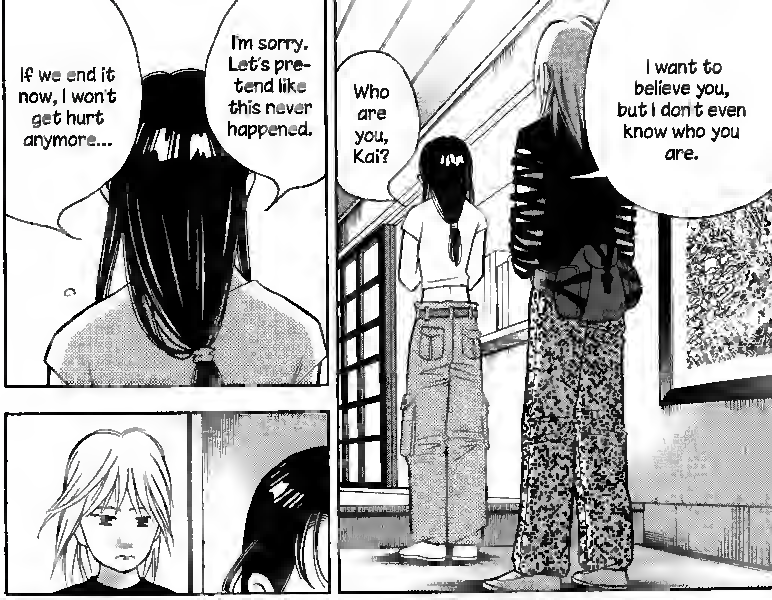

AND YOU CAN NEVER KNOW WHEN A PERSON MIGHT DIE.
YOU'RE ONLY 18 SO THERE'S NOT SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE.

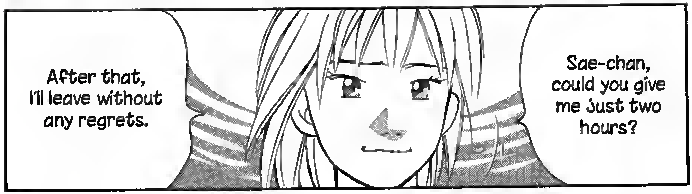
That's not the problem.
Then what is it?
That's...
Because I'm from the Edge of the Forest?
Or is it because my mother is a prostitute?
T... that's not your fault...
But...
You can't just ...
Sleep with all the girls in ‖P☆Club‖ because of that. That's a huge problem.
Especially considering me to be someone's substitute...
I don't know what great techniques you learned from them, but...
What ?
Haha-ha...
What are you talking about? Stupid Sae-chan...

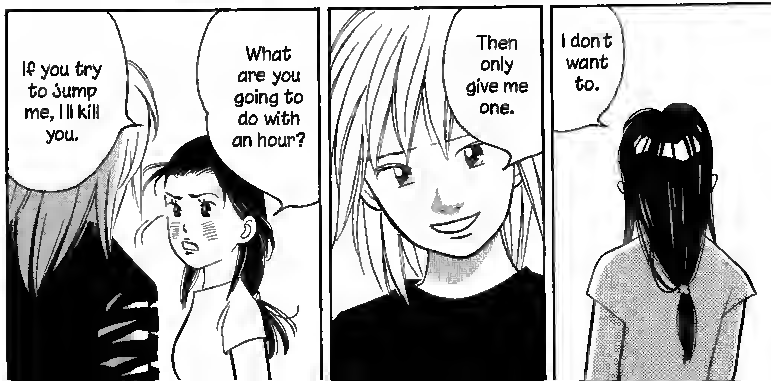

I don't have any special techniques.
You of all people should know that!
If you're not sure, do you want to see right now?
If you try anything, I'll kill you!

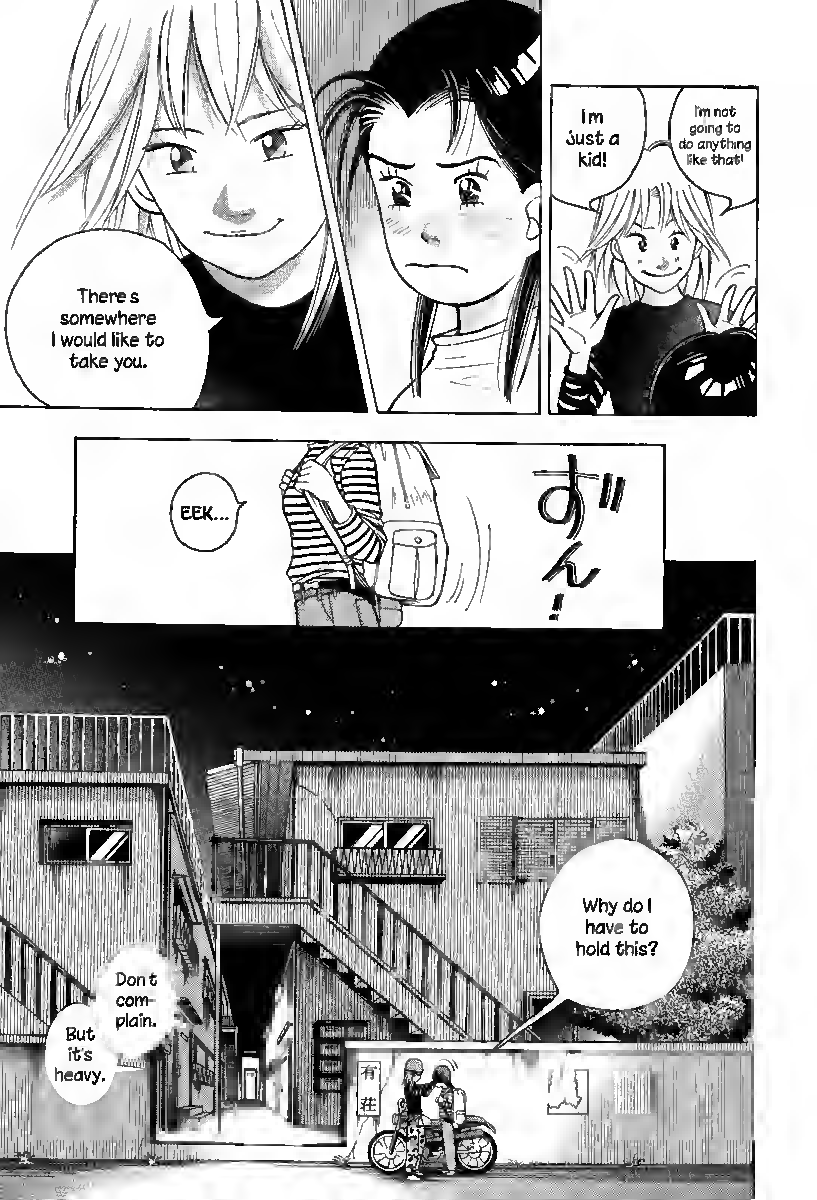
Sorry.
But trust me when I say...
I never meant for you to be anybody's substitute.

It's...
I want to hug you because I like only you, Sae-chan.
First you were a girl and then suddenly a guy...
Exactly what am I supposed to believe about you?
You're just a kid...
It's not right.
Which parts are lies, and which part is the truth?
But then they told me to keep away from you since you were common property.
I really started to like you...
You were older than me, and then you weren't...

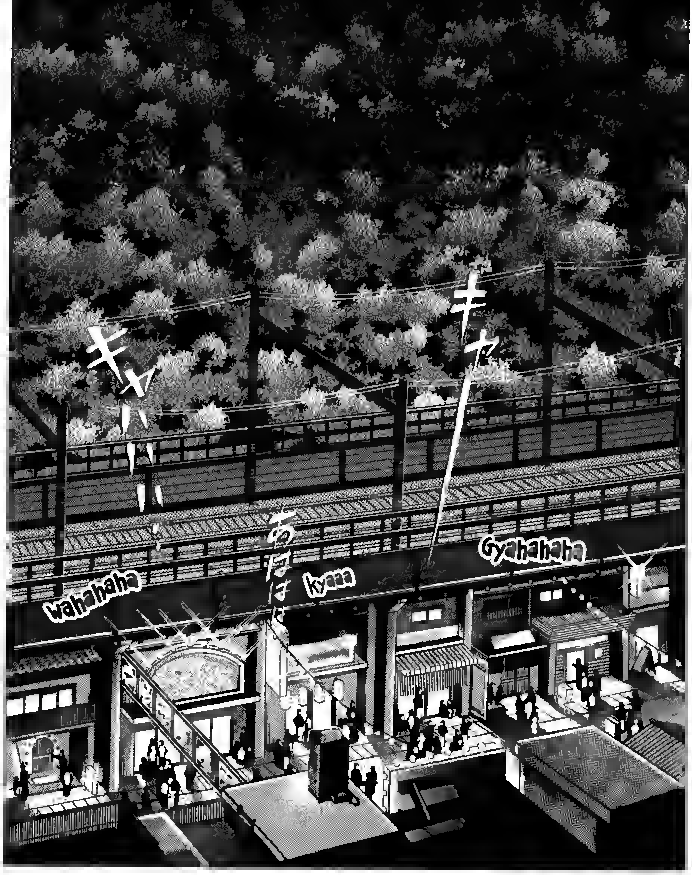

I want to believe you, but I don't even know who you are.
Who are you, Kai?
I'm sorry. Let's pretend like this never happened.
If we end it now, I won't get hurt anymore...


Sae-chan, could you give me just two hours?
After that, I'll leave without any regrets.


I don't want to.
Then only give me one.
What are you going to do with an hour?
If you try to jump me, I'll kill you.


There's somewhere I would like to take you.
I'm just a kid!
I'm not going to do anything like that!
EEK...
ずん!
Why do I have to hold this?
Don't complain.
But it's heavy.
有井

And where are you trying to go at this time of night...
What's in there?
But, if I held it you wouldn't have anything to hold on to and you'd fall off the bike.
有荘
You told me you'd give me 2 hours!
Just hop on for now!
Then we'll have to hurry.
I said one hour.
ヒュ

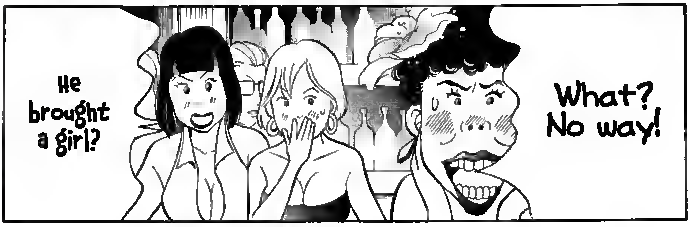

Kyaa
Kyahahaha
Kyahahaha

Where are we?
ahaha~
Wh...

This is the "Edge of the forest".
This is...
The edge of the forest.
This is where I was born.
Since we don't have a lot of time, we're going to go through here...
So you have to hold on to me.
I...
I'm scared...
It's fine!
I can go on my own.
Ohhh, you're quite a perky character!

Wanna wrestle with me until dawn breaks?
Kya!
LET HER GO!
Eh? It's Kai! How's it going?
Every-thing going well?
OF COURSE! I'VE BEEN GREAT!
See? I'm still going strong!!
暁

AND HE'S GOT A GIRL WITH HIM, TOO!
KAI CAME BACK!
KA...
売


He brought a girl?
What? No way!

Stop being so loud...
Whaaat? The forest?
They went into the forest.
Yeah, there's a lot of witnesses!

LET HIM BE.
I'm sure he has his reasons.
You told Kai not to come here anymore.
I'll go look for him.
But Rei-chan...
It's nothing to freak out about.
Especially if he has a girl with him.
A scene like this...
At a place like this...

Looks like the moon is trying extra hard today because we're here.
It's like a scene from a fairytale.
It's so pretty!

Sae-chan...
This is where I grew up.
It was struck down by lightning 5 years ago, but...
An abandoned grand piano used to stond here.
And I played that piano every day since I was 3.
I wanted to play that real piano for you, but...
ガサゴソ

ting
ting
AH...
YUP.
I bor-
rowed it
from the
boss.
Is that
what
you put
in the
bag?
It's a bit
small, but
we don't
have any
other
choice...
Sadly,
the piano in
the forest
doesn't exist
anymore.
Ah...

You said that I was full of lies and you didn't know who I am...
I'm prepared to be dumped. I just wanted to show you this forest.

Kaj...
I...
But you might find out here.

Shhh...
Listen carefully. The forest might join in with its harmonies.
Ah...
I already knew it.
That whoever you are...
From the beginning I...
...Was drawn to you.

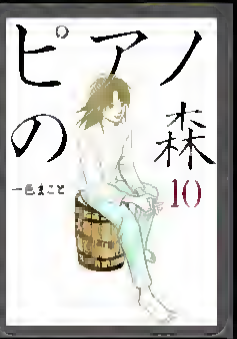
To you...
...playing the piano in the forest...

Sae-chan...

Do you want to live with me?
END

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto



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Piano No Mori Ch 80

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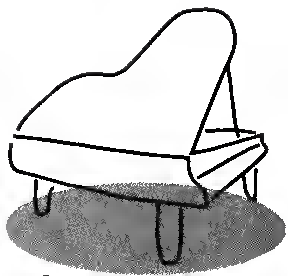
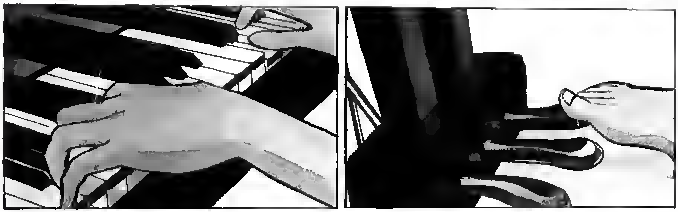


The Perfect World of KAI

One boy's...



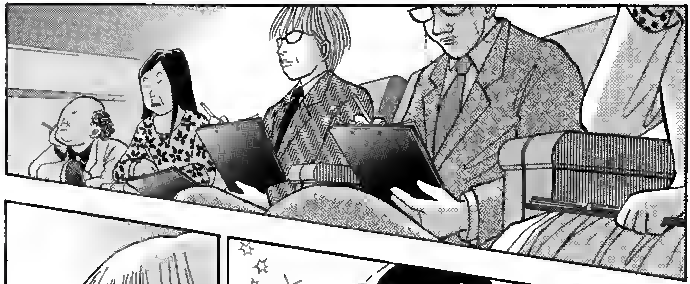
...5 minute
performance...

Chapter 81
A Special Piano
...Can sometimes change the world.

ドオオ
ワアアア

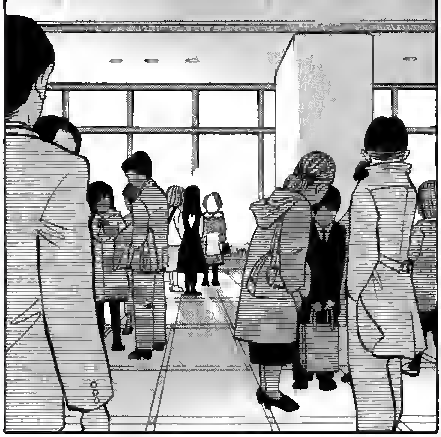
To be able to...
パチパチパチパチパチパチ
To be able to see him again...

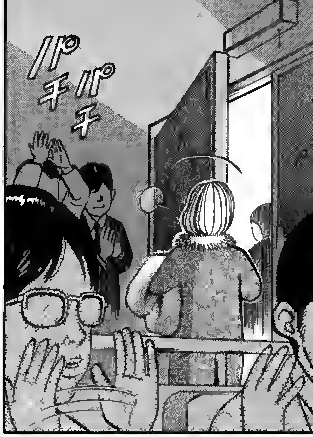
...that I could find.
I entered every single piano competition.
THE 8TH YOUTH PIANO CONCOURS

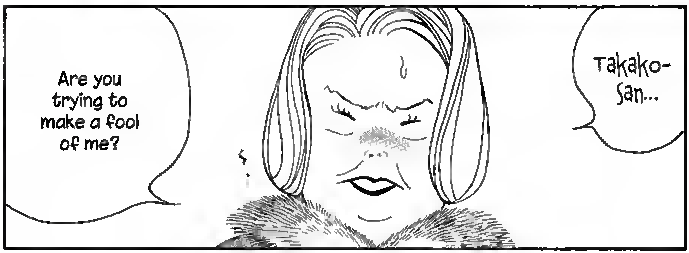


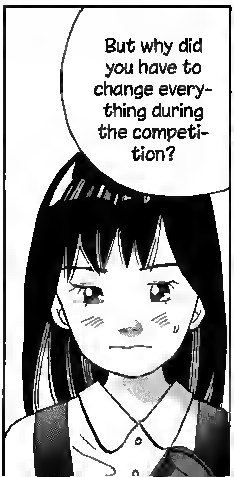
MIDORI
The 5th Piano

8th
Yamato Piano
Concours
MID-SOUTH COMPETITION
Middle School Level
PIANO CONCOURS
21st
Piano
Soloist
Competi-
tion for
Youth
PIANO COMPETITION
パチパチ
Clap
*AWARD: HONORABLE MENTION
……
特別賞




パチパチ


Are you trying to make a fool of me?
Takako-san...

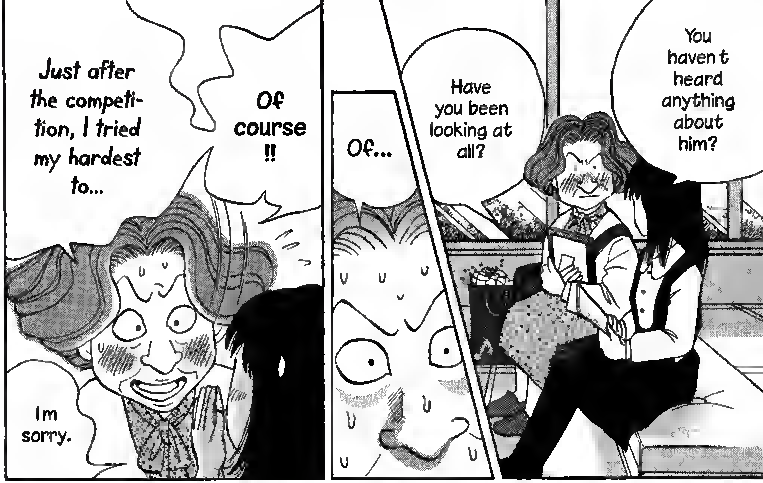

But why did you have to change everything during the competition?

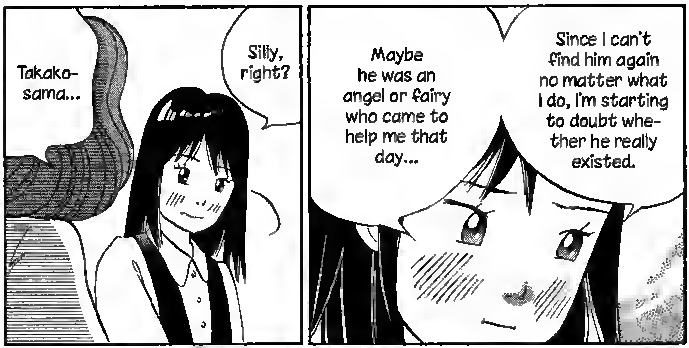
During the lessons, you played well, just like I told you to!

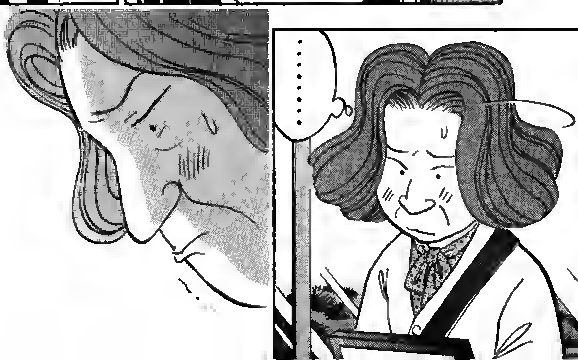
There's no need to get something like that over and over again!
You had the skills to win, but you only got an honorable mention instead...
特別賞
特別賞
Butt out, Shiraishi-san!
...
What's wrong with an honorable mention?!
I... I do need you...
If I don't have a teacher to teach me the basics, then I...
You clearly don't need me!
I... I won't give you any lessons anymore.

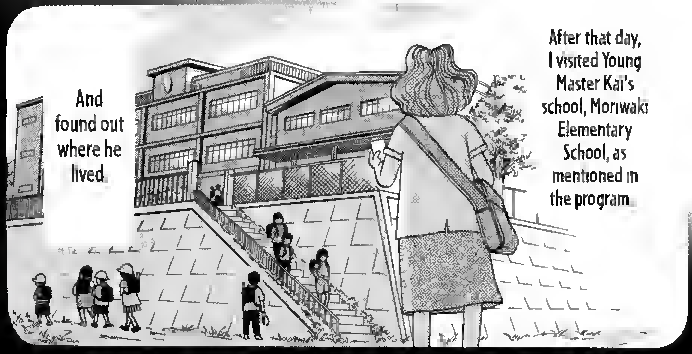
Takaka-san, even while paying all that money...
You only thought of me as a beginner's teacher?
T-That's not true.
I'm a professar at the Rokka College of Music!
Don't embarrass me any further!
Good bye!
P...
Please cheer up, Takako-sama.

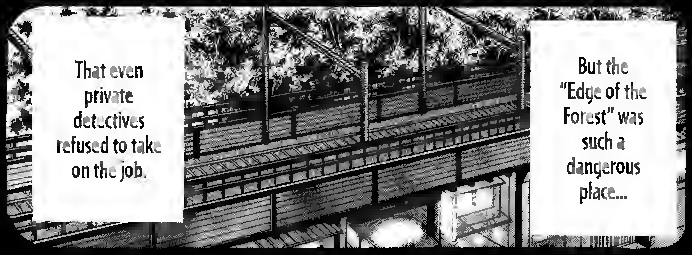
You still received an honorable mention...
I'll find you an even better teacher!
That's not the issue.
It's just that...
I didn't see him this time either...
Ah...
You mean Young Master Kai?
I always go through the program first, but I haven't seen his name.
Maybe he doesn't like competitions anymore after what happened that day.
.....


You haven't heard anything about him?
Have you been looking at all?
Of...
Of course !!
Just after the competition, I tried my hardest to...
I'm sorry.


Since I can't find him again no matter what I do, I'm starting to doubt whether he really existed.
Maybe he was an angel or fairy who came to help me that day...
Silly, right?
Takako-sama...


.....
Forgive me for lying...

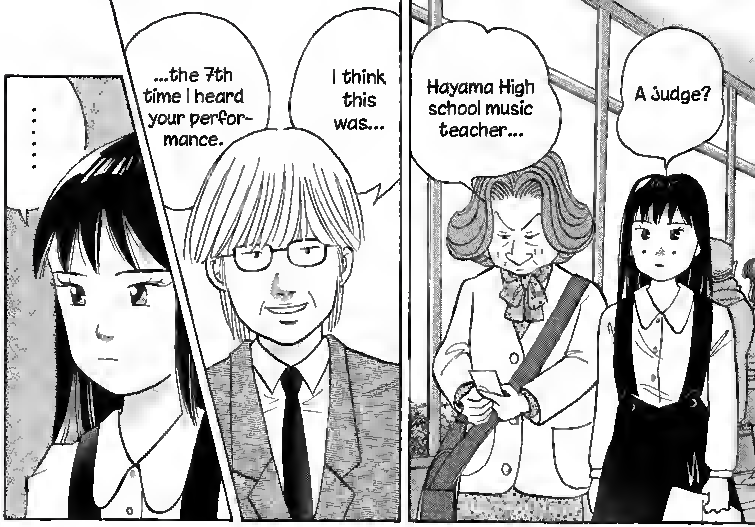

And found out where he lived.
After that day, I visited Young Master Kai's school, Moriwaki Elementary School, as mentioned in the program.

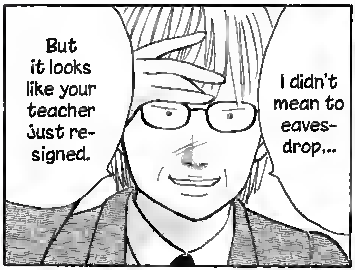

That even private detectives refused to take on the job.
But the "Edge of the Forest" was such a dangerous place...

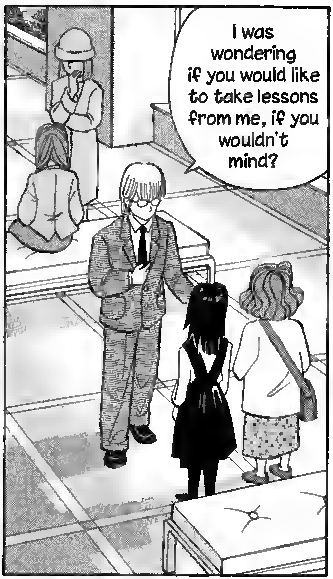
Those people will do anything to protect themselves.
It's dangerous to show even the slightest signs of suspicion around those people.
Telling me to find somebody in the "Edge of the Forest" is like telling me to go swimming with concrete shoes

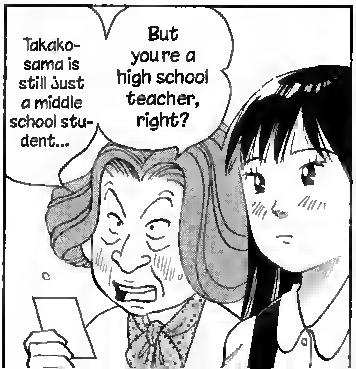
They live by the motto. 'Don't let a snitch get away.'
どど
Young Master Kai..
...did nothing wrong...
トボ
トボ
とぼ
But I couldn't let Takako-sama get mixed up..
. . . .
. with the place called "Edge of the Forest."
はあ

Yes?
May I interrupt you for a moment?
Maruyama Takako-san?
Excuse me...
Or, should I say... "I'm sorry?"
Con-gratula-tions on the hon-orable mention.
Hayama High School
affiliate of Hayama Music University
Shiba Koutarou
My name is Shiba Koutarou, and I was a Judge in this competi-tion.
Ah, I didn't introduce myself properly.
W-Who are you?


A judge?
Hayama High school music teacher...
I think this was...
...the 7th time I heard your performance.
.....


I didn't mean to eavesdrop...
But it looks like your teacher just resigned.


I was wondering if you would like to take lessons from me, if you wouldn't mind?


But you're a high school teacher, right?
Takako-sama is still just a middle school student...

Could I ask you a question?
Yes.
As many as you'd like.
If you've seen me play 7 times...
Were you also at the "All Japan Student Piano Concours Preliminaries?"
Yes, I was.
I was also a judge back then.
Then do you remember the performance of a boy named Ichinose Kai?
It was a special performance.
Of course!

Then why didn't Ichinose Kai pass the prelimina-ries?
Why didn't he pass?
I...

Takako-sama, that's a rude question...
NO.
The answer is quite simple.
It was because ...
...ALL THE JUDGES WERE IDIOTS.
I have always...

...hear that...
You don't want to learn from an idiot like me?
wanted to...
Ah...
Kai!!

Where are you now?

Could I...
Take lessons with you even on Saturdays?
Of course!
Ta.. Takako-sama
That was when I was in my 2nd year of middle school...

I started taking lessons every weekend from Shiba-sensei.
Unlike my previous teachers, Shiba-sensei...

Let me play my own style.
My own Piano...
Zzzz

3 years later...
November, my 2nd year of high school...

I feel the same way.
The main round is next October, right?
International Chopin Competition
Recommendation Audition

This competition is only held once every 5 years...
So I'll pass the preliminaries, and get the recommendation of the Japan Chopin Society, no matter what!

International Chopin Competition
Recommendation Audition
Chopin

Not here again.
I still haven't snapped out of that habit of looking for his name in the pamphlet
I thought he might be here because it's such a huge competition.

Since you have to be 17 by the time the main round starts next year to qualify.
Y...Young Master Kai mightn't be old enough to enter!
....
He was a grade below me, so depending on his birthday, he might not be eligible.
You're right.
.....
Now that I think about it, I don't even know his birthday
That's right.
Yo!

But now I'm intrigued.
I wasn't expecting much from this competition this year...
The youngest entrant in this years competition was your student?
Oh, nice to see you again, Saga-sensei.
Please... look forward to it.
I was trying to avoid this man...
HA HA HA
I'm just doing my duty as Judge.

Takako-san, right?
Maru-yama...
A judge?
I'll be looking forward to your performance.
Let me hear something provocative.
Thank you.

Then, I will be in the participant's waiting room.
Don't be nervous. Just play how you always play.
We're just here to get some practice this time.
Okay.
How is her piano?
Even if you say it's just for practice...
Since this competition occurs every 5 years...
She can have 3 shots before she turns 28.

..but I couldn't refuse this time because my father was involved.
Being a Judge is simply boring...
Anyway, you have been refusing to Judge any competitions lately, what made you...
I SEE...
Fuhu
...is a wealthy man who owns many of Japan's musical facilities and universities, and has a lot of influence in the world because of that.
Now that I think about it, this man's father...
Except for hers, I don't want to listen to any others no matter how good they are.
To be frank, I'm only interested in one person's perfomances these days.

She's not somebody you would have heard of.
She's a secret pianist.
To have grabbed your attention like that ... Where...
Who's is it?
I would like to listen to her as well.
Maria...
No, I don't want to tell anyone, no matter how close we are.

It's...
like...
..AN ADDIC-TION.

Don't worry about it!
I'm also looking forward to hearing your pupil's piano!
Haha ha...
!
AH!
See you around.
...the boy you were looking for?
Did you ever find...
I just remembered...

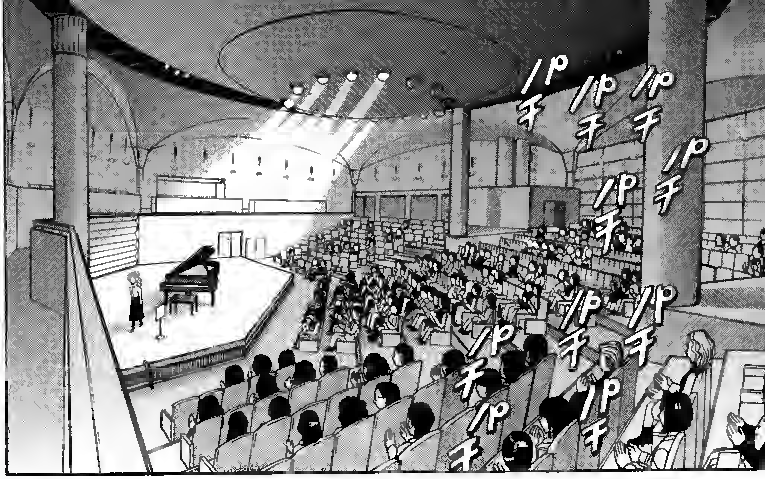
I used to make fun of you...
All to find the boy.
You became a changed man and started accepting every judging position they offered.
But after you heard his piano at the competition you were forced to judge...
You used to hate competitions...
But now I think I can understand.
.....
One boy's 5 minute performance...
I can fully understand your reactions now.

Can sometimes
change the world.

The boy's name...
Was Ichinose Kai!
How could I forget?
The name of the genius who we, the Judges, ruined...
You mean *you* Judges.
KUKU

Don't worry.
If he's for real, he'll be back for sure, no matter how often he's knocked down.
How could you say something so irresponsible?
Definitely...
Hahaha
17
clap
clap
clap

カッ
カッ
カッ
How could it be this boring?
I shouldn't have accepted this job.


パチ
パチ
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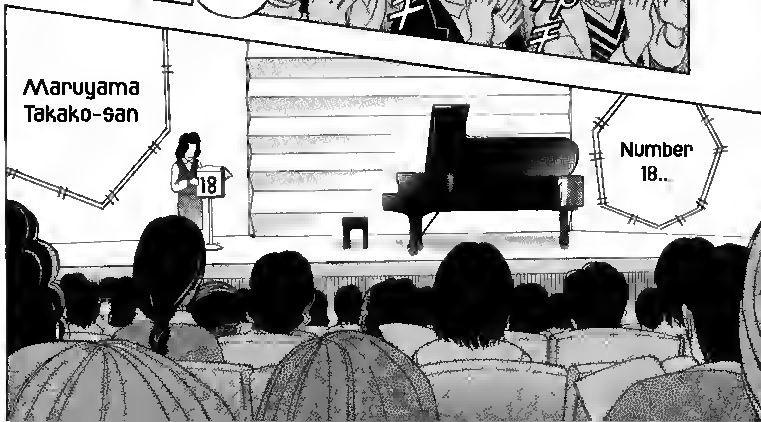
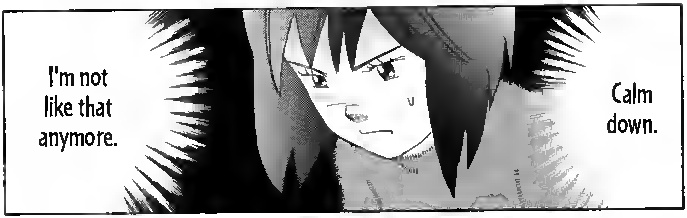
パチ

18
I knew we didn't have any notable players this time...
But this...
There aren't any contestants who stand out.
パチ
パチ
パチ
パチ
パチ


Maruyama Takako-san
18
Number 18..

パチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチ
Clap
17?!
Isn't she 17 if she's a 2nd year in high school?
Hayama Music High School...
She's the youngest entrant this time.
T...Takako-sama...
Clap
Clap
Clap

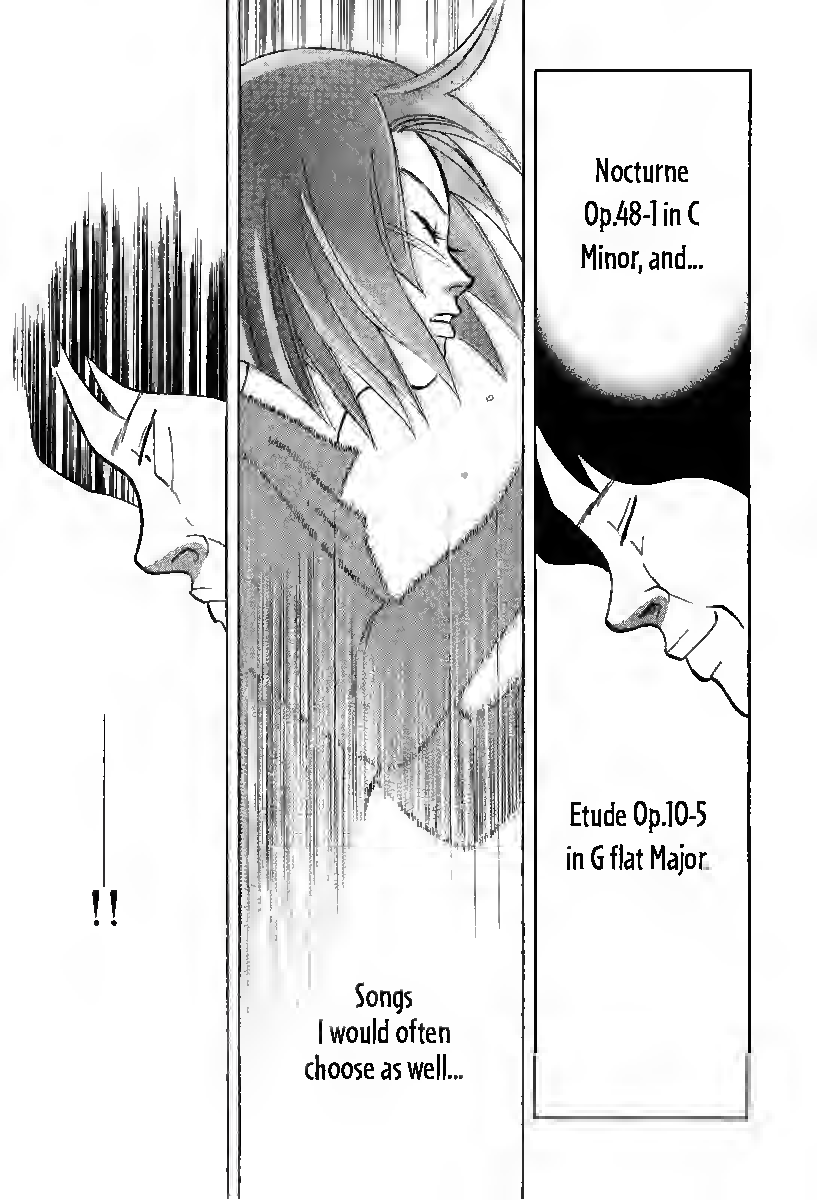
Calm down.
Calm down.
パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ


I'm not like that anymore.
Calm down.

tto

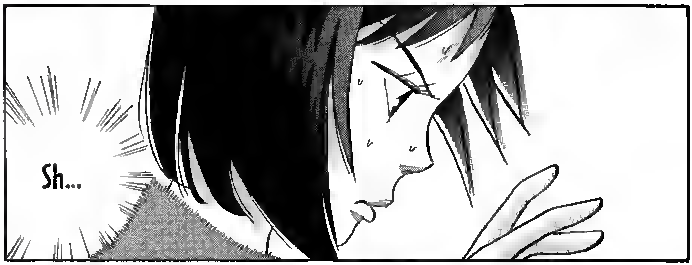
This girl is good.
Yes, just like that.
Lady Takako ...
That Shiba, he did well raising her to this level.
Hmm, this is great.
She's in a different league than the others.
This girl...

The delicate balance between the left and right hands...
Is that her individual style?
The balance in her notes soothes the listeners.
Honest notes.


!!
Songs I would often choose as well...
Nocturne Op.48-1 in C Minor, and...
Etude Op.10-5 in G flat Major.

Has her left hand...
...Been broken before?
Could it be...
That doesn't make any sense.
If that were true she couldn't pull off a technique like this.
Her left fingers are slightly off balance.
Yes! It's the left hand!

...is creating the delicate balance in her rhythm!
That slight difference in balance...


Sh...

Shiba!!

That Shiba...
Hasn't he...
noticed...

1st Round Qualifiers

4 Ooshima Akiyoshi

7 Aikawa Rino

10 Saki Yuuto

18 Maruyama Takako

21 Simada Kentaro

22 Nakano Mai

24 Aratama Maiko

31 Fuwa Miwako

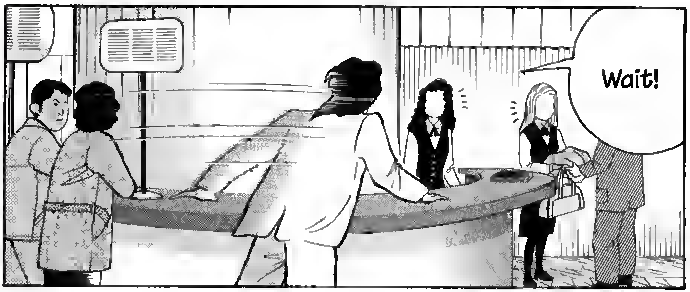
34 Kanzaki Dai

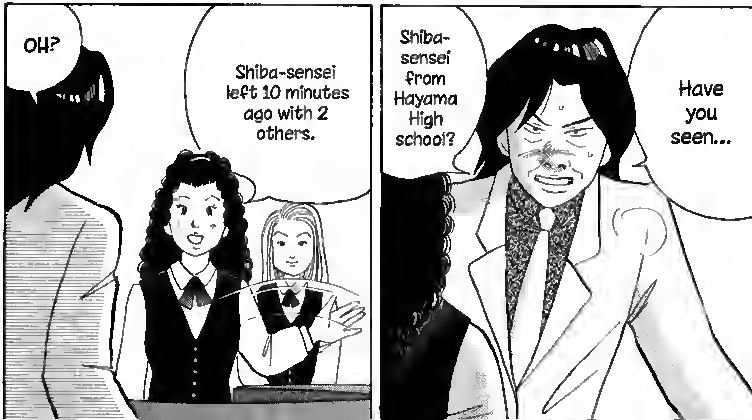
18 Maruyama Takako

We'll pass the 2nd round of preliminaries in 1st place Just like this time~
Takako-sama was the best!
There was no way you would have failed the 1st round!

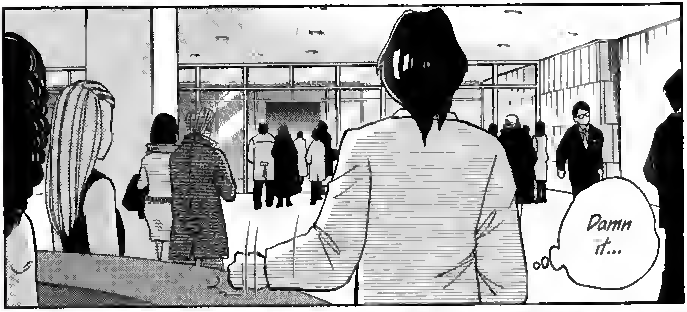
I want to say it even louder!
Eh? why are you being shy?
Stop it!
And definitely get in the top 2 at the main round!
But please lower your voice.
Thank you...
SQUEEZE
Yes, I'll pass it on.
And say hello to your father for me...
審査員控室
Thank you for your hard work.

Oh, Saga-kun, you were here!
I haven t heard anything from you lately!
Hey, hey let me go now, will you?

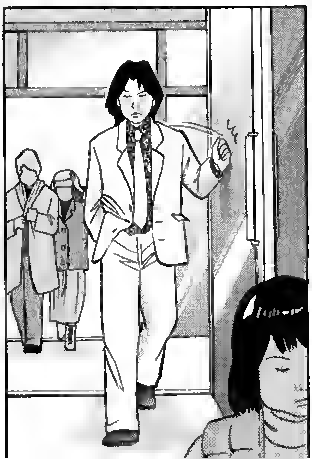

Wait!


Have you seen...
Shiba-sensei from Hayama High school?
Shiba-sensei left 10 minutes ago with 2 others.
OH?

AH. .


Damn it...

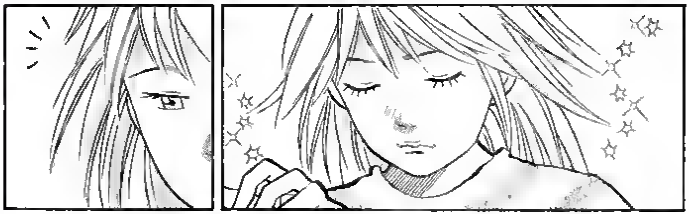
Shiba, you...



What are you doing?
Are you trying to ruin a gifted pianist?

This is Chopin.
Chopin's Waltz
Titled...

Valse Brillante, Op.34-3 in F major, also known as The Cat Waltz.

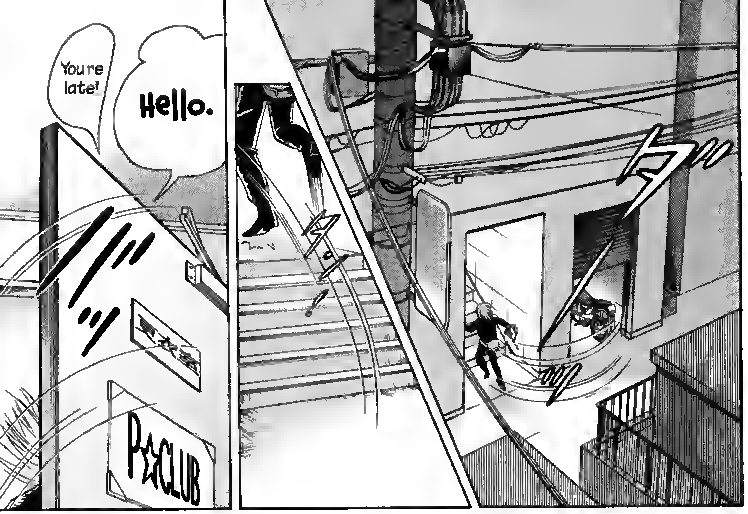


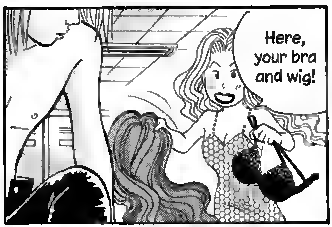
SAE-CHAN, DID YOU PUT MEAT IN THAT CURRY?

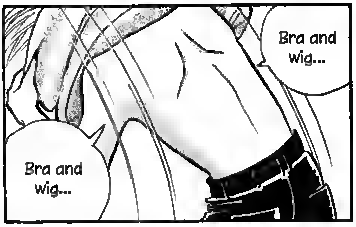
No, I didn't.
You never eat it, no matter what I try, so I'm not going to use it anymore.
Phew!
In-stead ...
I put in some meat broth.
Broth, eh...
. . . . . .
Broth is okay. Since it has no form!
Ahaha. Silly you
Are you going to work?
Let's eat together when I come back.
Okay, take care!

Fairy Club

His name is Ichinose Kai.
A 2nd year highschooler, 16 years old...


You're late!
Hello.
P☆CLUB


Here, your bra and wig!

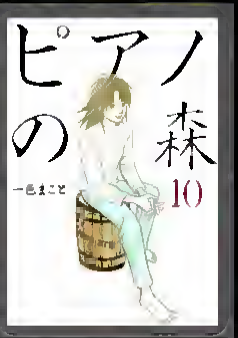

Bra and wig...
Bra and wig...

...becomes a woman named Maria at night in a club...
Is Maria here?
P☆CLUB
The boy who lives along with the piano...

And plays the piano.

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto



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Deadline (for submitions)
6th January 2012
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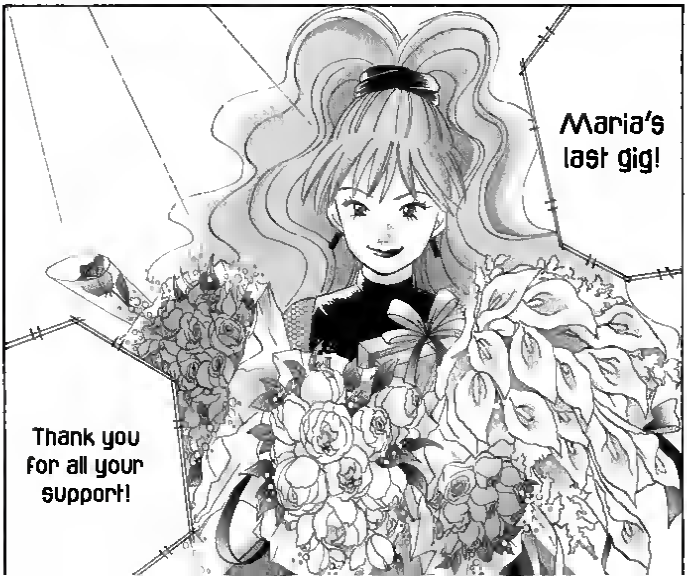
Chapter 82

Maria's Chopin

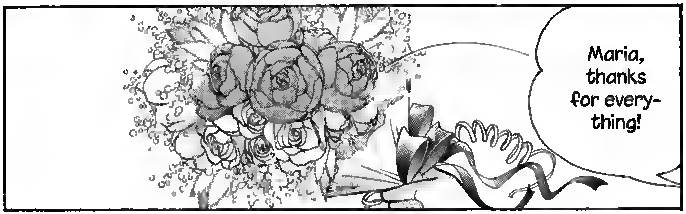
Take me to the P☆Club.
No.
Do you want me to toke you to your house in Tokyo?
The P☆Club? It'd toke 3 hours to get there, even if I bent the rules...
I want to buy some flowers on the way, so please hurry.
That's irrele-vant.
No music.
AH
Yes, sir.

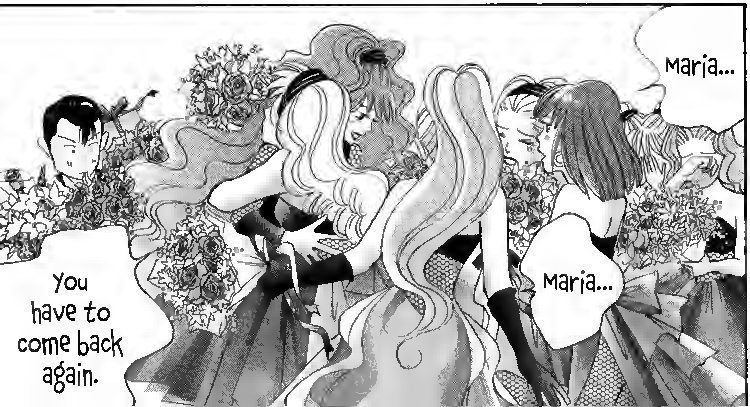
I heard too much bad Chopin today...
So I don't want to hear anymore. Give my ears a break.
I'm sorry.
It must have been torture for someone with ears as good as yours, sensei.
Worse than torture.
I shouldn't have accepted a job like this at all.
If I don't listen to Maria's piano right now, I will go crazy.
I see.
I will get there as fast as I can.
ブォォ

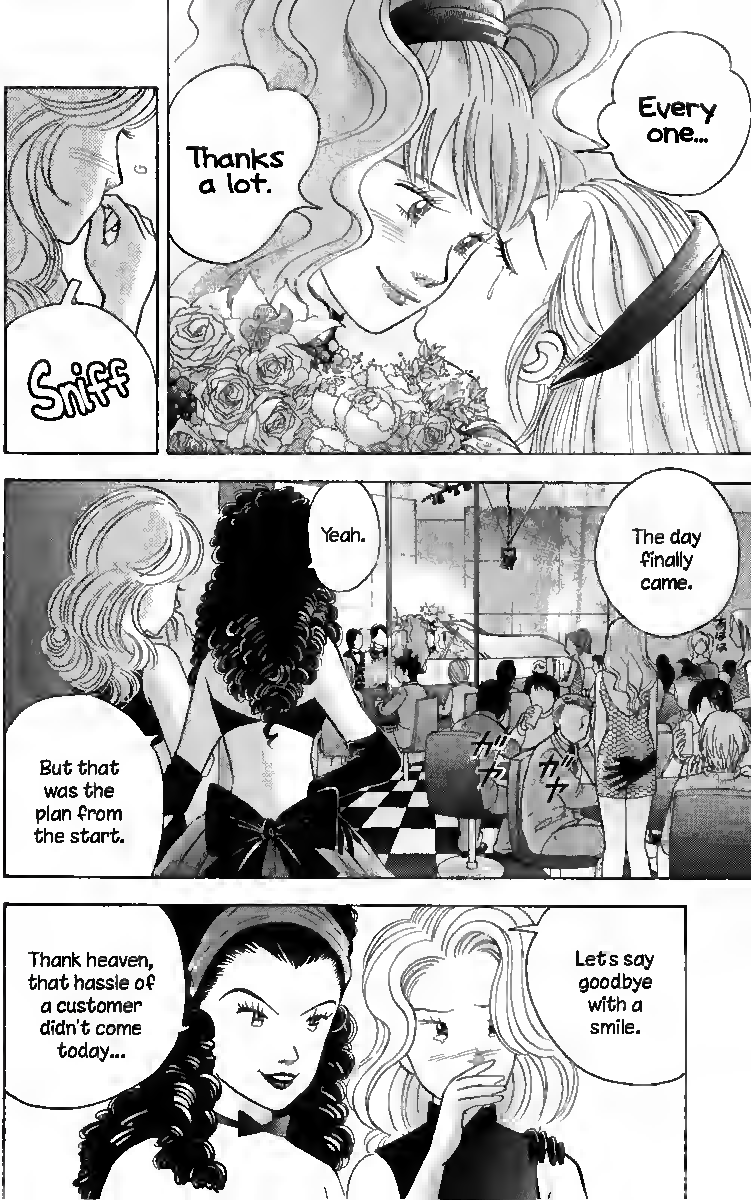
Ladies and gentlemen,
Today is p☆Club's number 1 pianist...
P☆CLUB


Maria's last gig!
Thank you for all your support!

パチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチパチ


Maria, thanks for every-thing!


Maria...
Maria...
You have to come back again.

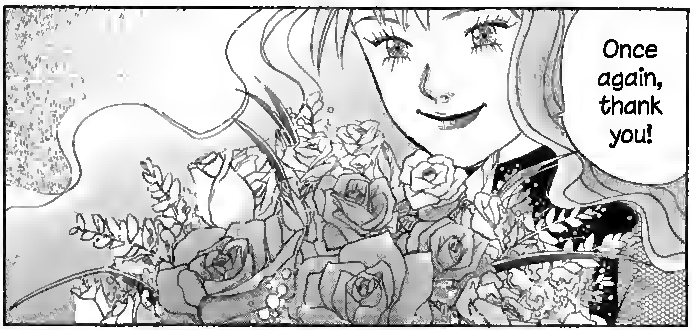

Every one...
Thanks a lot.
Sniff
The day finally came.
Yeah.
But that was the plan from the start.
Let's say goodbye with a smile.
Thank heaven, that hassle of a customer didn't come today...

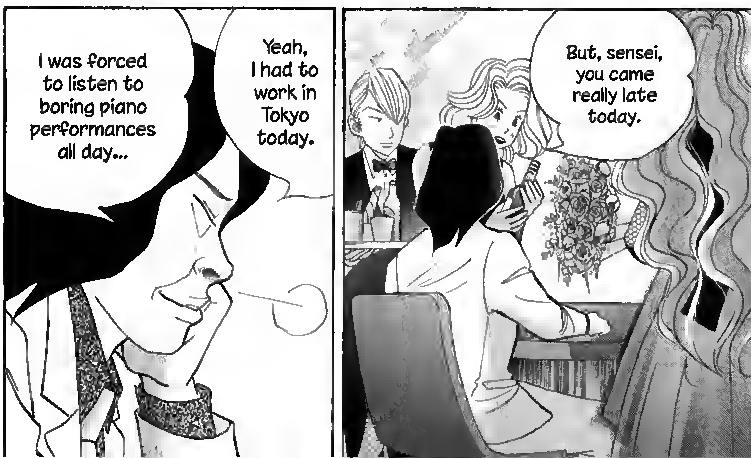
Where's Maria?
Wel-come!
Then let's keep it a secret.
Wait, isn't that the troublesome customer?
Maria's gigs have...
Ohhr~, Saga-Sensei, you're late~!
The 2nd show time has just ended!

That's great.
I won't have to look at you guys dancing naked.
How can you say such a thing...
I only come here because of Maria's piano.
Maria, Maria, that's all you ever blab about...
!!
W... What do you want to do, Maria? That pest of a customer is here.
You could sneak out right now if you want.
That's okay. Today...
...is the last day after all.

Maria...
Good evening, welcome!

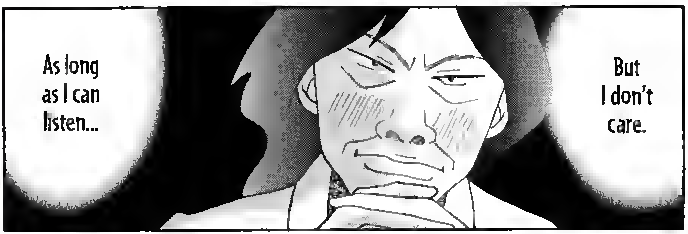
This is for you...
This...


Once again, thank you!


I was forced to listen to boring piano performances all day...
Yeah, I had to work in Tokyo today.
But, sensei, you came really late today.

Then tell me what you want to hear.
I came to cleanse my ears, Maria!
And yet you came here to listen to more piano?
You can arrange it however you like.
The best would be to wash away the bad Chopin with the best Chopin!
Anything you play will be good, but...
Just for you, sensei.
Then I'll play a Chopin piece...

Would never actually play the piano for me.
Maria...


As long as I can listen...
But I don't care.

to Maria's piano...

Ah...
This is...
Opus 69-1,
The Farewell
Waltz!

Chopin's waltz
without any
arrangements!

I've heard Maria play Chopin...
This is the first time...
Describe this piano?
How can I even...
What a sound...
Ah...

Mellow...
Bitter-sweet...
Maria plays Chopin.
This is how...
And lovely...

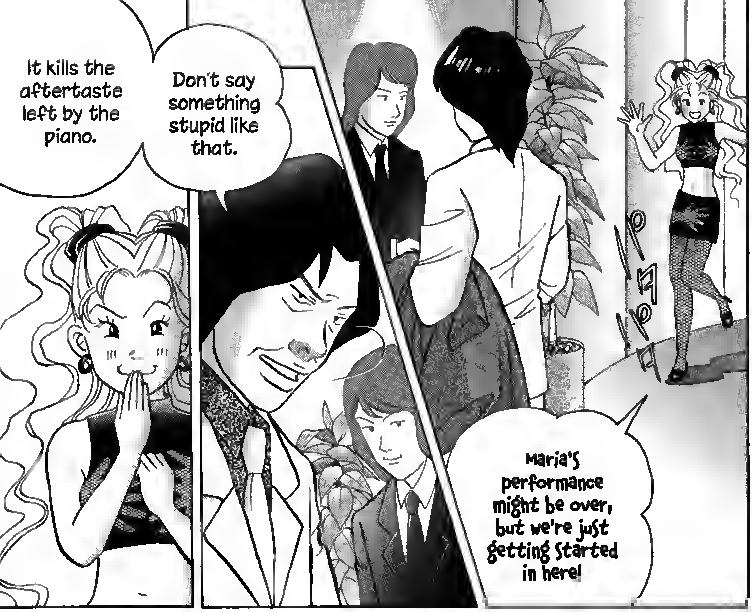
From the bottom of my heart...
It washes away...
...all the terrible noise I heard earlier today.

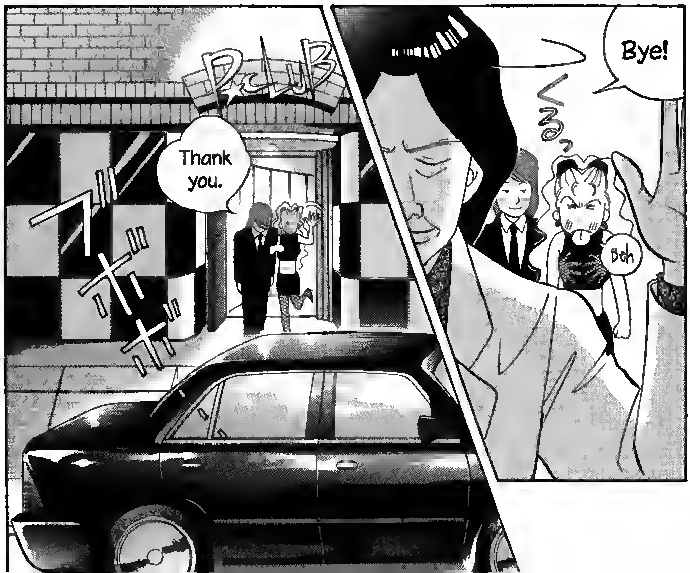
I am glad we've met through this piano.

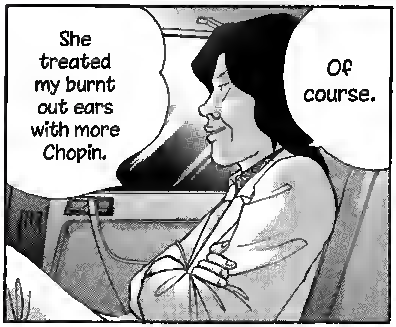
ting
マリア!
フルラボ
フルラボ

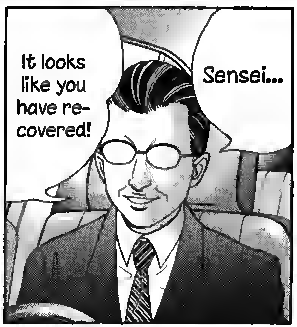
There are a lot of customers who appreciate music here today.
パチパチ
ブラボー

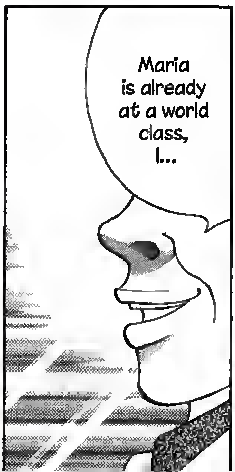
Sensei, you're going back already?
ロビー


It kills the aftertaste left by the piano.
Don't say something stupid like that.
Maria's performance might be over, but we're just getting started in here!


Thank you.
Bye!
Boh


She treated my burnt out ears with more Chopin.
Of course.


It looks like you have recovered!
Sensei...


Maria is already at a world class, I...

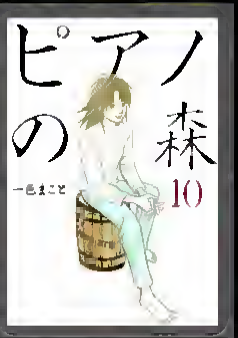
With the pianists that came to the competition today.
Maria's piano doesn't even compare.

Sensei?
.....?
S...
If Maria was there...
If Maria entered the Chopin competition...
Turn the car around.
...and put her in the entry directly?
If I recommended her.
Maria can definitely become a top player.
It's possible!

N...Never mind.
Yes?
But if that happens ...
I can tell her tomorrow.
Well...
It won't be my personal performance anymore.
to be continued..

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto



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Piano No Mori Ch 82

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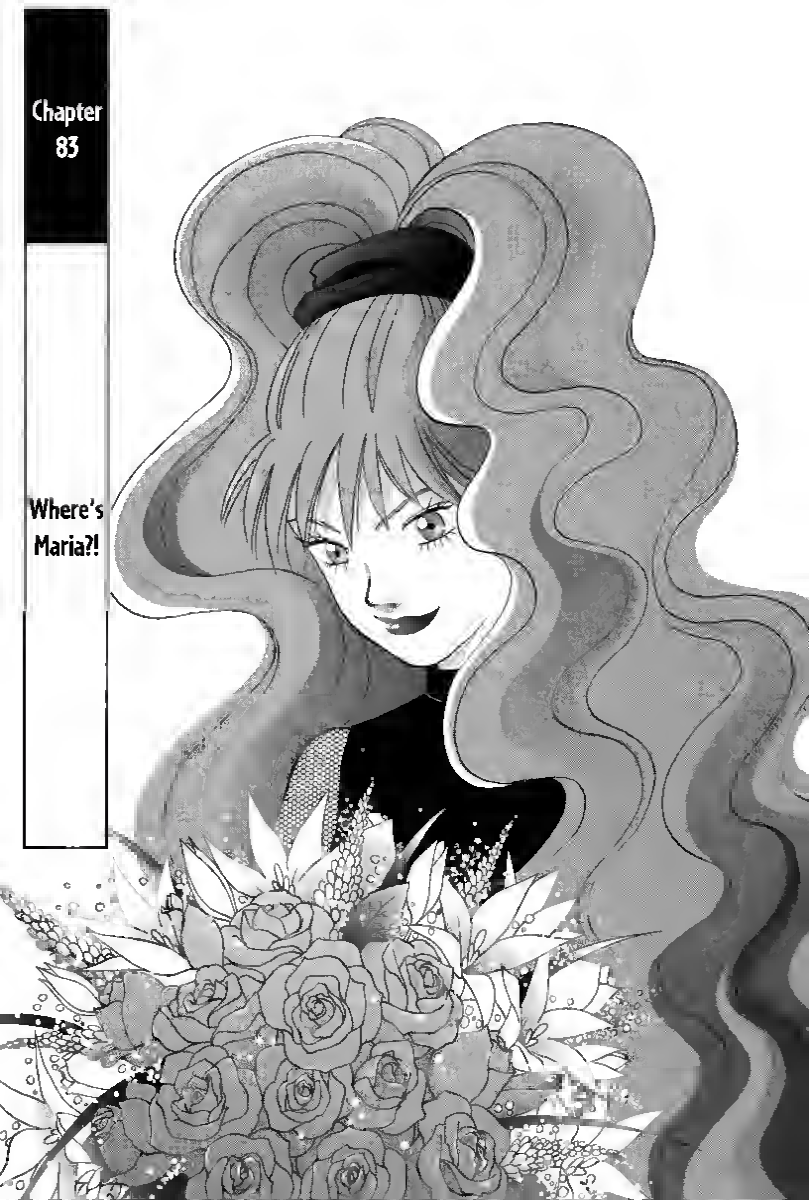
Chapter 83

Where's Maria?!

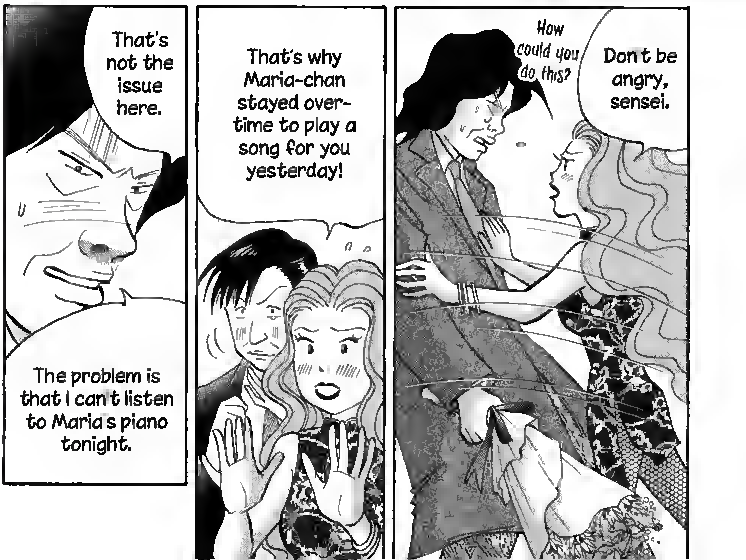


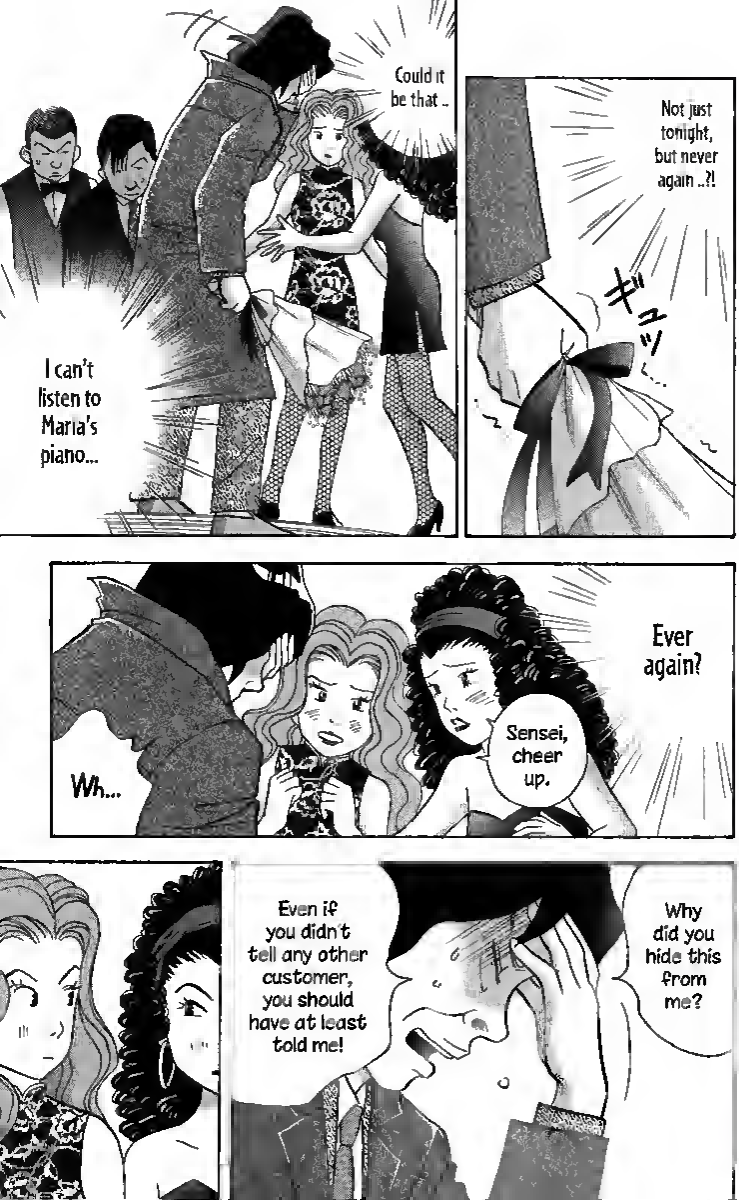
Maria...
Quit working?

This doesn't make any sense...
Are you telling me that yesterday was her last performance?

I'M SORRY.
From the beginning, the contract with Maria was meant to terminate on this day...
.....
Maria...
...quit?

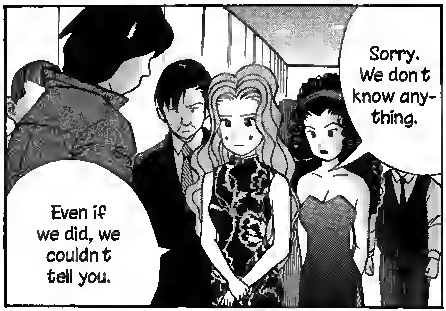
YOU KNOW THAT I ONLY COME TO THIS STORE TO LISTEN TO MARIA PLAY THE PIANO!
I'm so sorry.
Wh...
Why didn't you tell me?

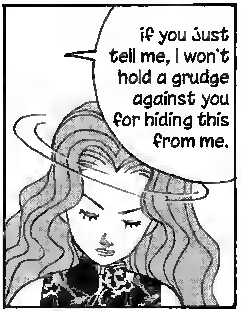

That's not the issue here.
The problem is that I can't listen to Maria's piano tonight.
That's why Maria-chan stayed over-time to play a song for you yesterday!
How could you do this?
Don't be angry, sensei.


Could it be that ..
I can't listen to Maria's piano...
Not just tonight, but never again ..?!
ギュッ
Ever again?
Sensei, cheer up.
Wh...
Why did you hide this from me?
Even if you didn't tell any other customer, you should have at least told me!

But you kept yelling at us, saying things like "Don't talk to me! I'm only here to listen to the piano!", so...
We tried to tell you a few times.
Sensei, you are probably the only person who didn't know about it.
...clapped and said their goodbyes. They knew that she was leaving.
All other fans of Maria-chan...
Where can I find Maria?
Please tell me.
SIGH
Then, it's a good thing we didn't tell you.
Don't group me together with those amateurs who don't know their music!
If I knew that she was leaving, then I wouldn't have just let her go like that.

Where can I go to hear Maria's piano again?
Where is the next club?
What's her real name?
Her address?
Yes, even if it's not at this club, I can still hear Maria's performance!


Sorry. We don't know anything.
Even if we did, we couldn't tell you.

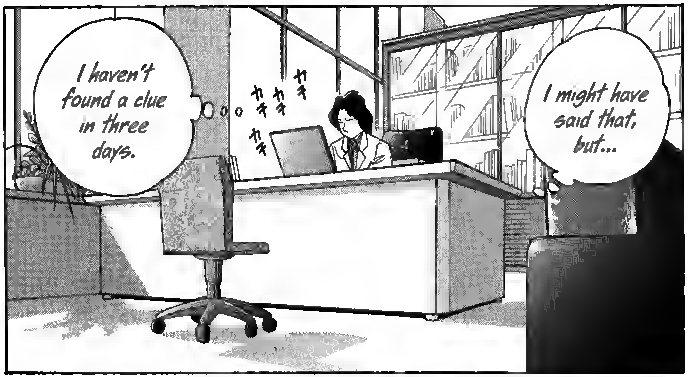

If you just tell me, I won't hold a grudge against you for hiding this from me.

What...?

I'm sorry. It's our club's policy...

T/N NOTE
NANIWA
COLLEGE OF
MUSIC

Deputy President
Saga Takeshi
President
Saga Ota-


I haven't found a clue in three days.
I might have said that, but...

Damn it, not again.
Where is she hiding?
Where is it?

カチカチ カチ カチカチ カチ

ピア
相川

□プロ
□コンクール歴
□参考

I told him to skip the male students!

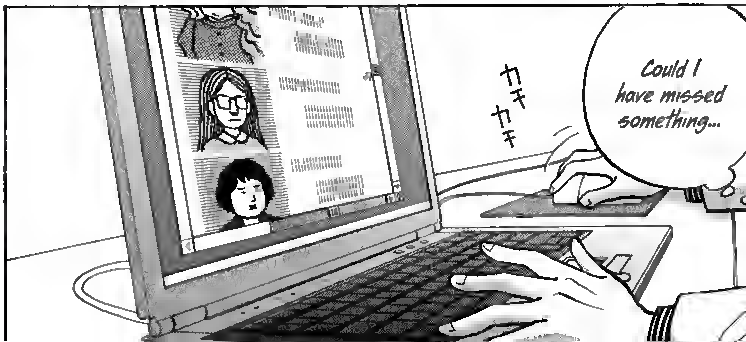
ピアノ科 4年
木元 雄大（きもと

□プロフィール

ピアノ科 4年
米山 春奈（よねやま はるな）

□プロフィール
□コンクール歴
□参考

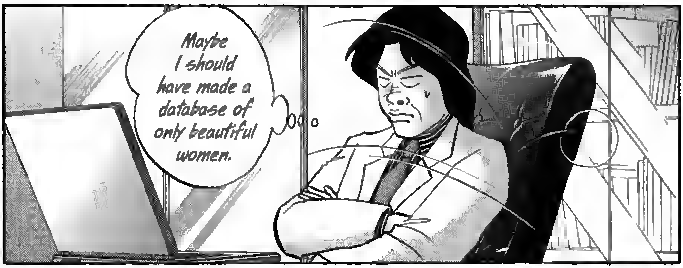
I skimmed through the entire list of students currently enrolled in a school of music, but..



カチ
カチ

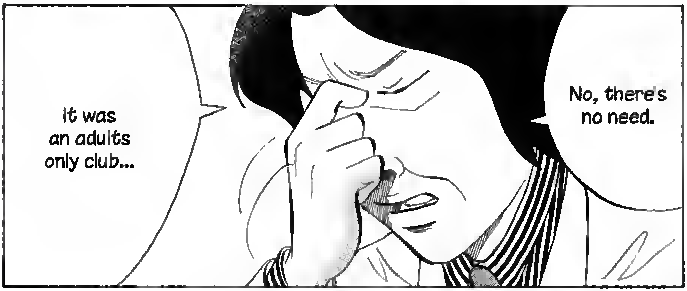
Could I have missed something...

Bring in the next database.
Yes, this is Ariyoshi
There's no way I could have missed a beauty like that.
Beep
No.


Maybe I should have made a database of only beautiful women.

Here is the rest of the data.
Excuse me.

If you need the data for high school students...
I am almost done organizing the list of students who are studying abroad.
Yes, but you can never tell just by a woman's appearance, so...
This is the data of all the graduates from a music school... I eliminated anyone over 30.
I told you that 25 should be the threshold.


It was an adults only club...
No, there's no need.

She must be somewhere in here.
No, that's fine.
For example, stores that put up shows and performances...
How about some data from a different angle?

Defi-nitely...
カチ
カチ
I will do that right away. Well then, if you ever need me...
Thanks. And please get me the list of students going abroad quickly.
Come out, Maria!
カチ
カチ
カチ
Maria is definitely in here!
Damn, he did it again.
And she must have been taught by a skillful teacher...
カチ
カチ
She must have been well educated.
To have become so good...
カチ
カチ
カチ

大和芸術学院

ピアノ科教授
町村 音生

I told him to take out the data for professors...

ピアノ科教授
三輪 美和

□プロフィー
□コンサート
□著書・活動

ピアノ科教授
武藤 山彦

□プロフィー
□コンサート
□著書・活動

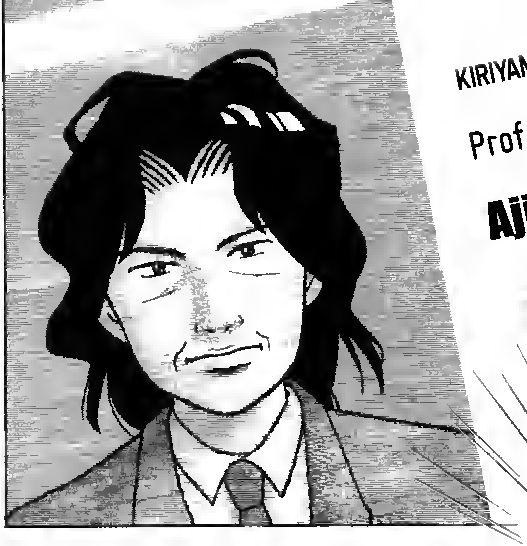
ピアノ科教授
成子・ロド

□プロフィー
□コンサート
□著書・活動

Professor of Piano
Ajino Sousuke
Profile
Concert

Huh?
...

Ah...



KIRIYAMA COLLEGE OF MUSIC

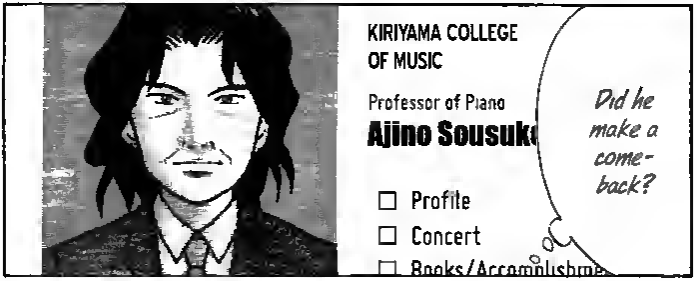
Professor of Piano

Ajino Sousuke

Profile

Concert

Ah... Sorry. I didn't mean to call.
Sensei? Is there a problem?

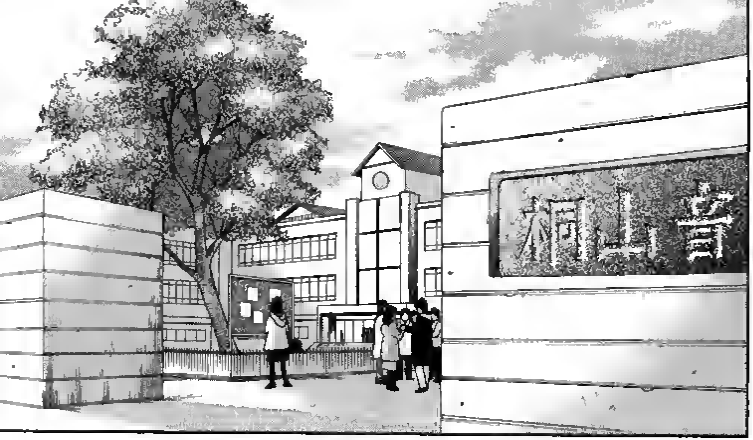

KIRIYAMA COLLEGE OF MUSIC
Professor of Piano
Ajino Sousuk
☐ Profile
☐ Concert
☐ Books/Accomplishme
Did he make a come-back?

I was searching for Maria, but I found something even better.
I can't believe it.

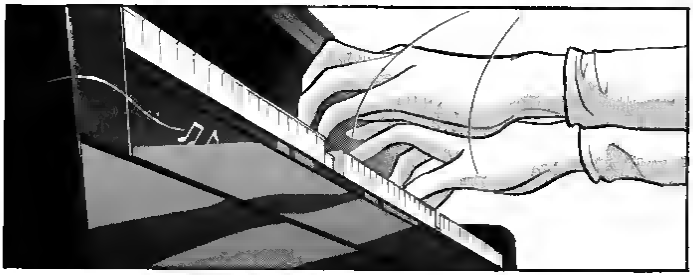
Ajino Sousuke used to be...
...an idol among us piano players
Even now, and forever in the future, will be remembered as the best pianist in Japan
Thank you. Do you play piano as well?
How did you know?
I can just tell.

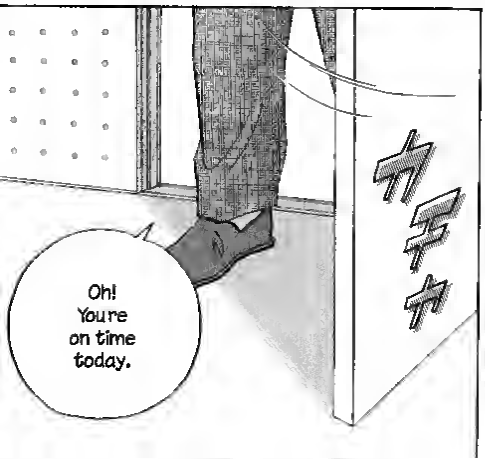
Famous pianist Mr Ajino Sousuke...
Breaking News...
When he lost his life as a pianist in the car accident...
Until 25 years ago...
The Pianist Ajino...
He disappeared from the media...
Even after...
No.

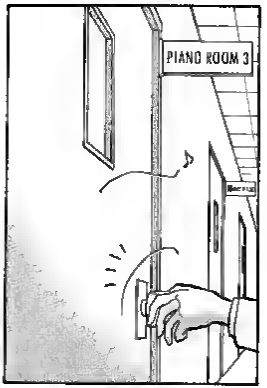
...was always
a hero in my
heart.



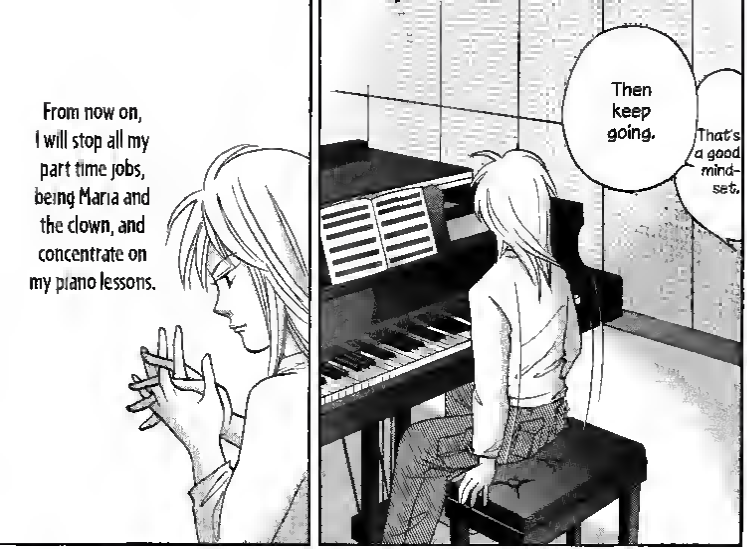
T/N NOTE: KIRIYAMA SCHOOLS

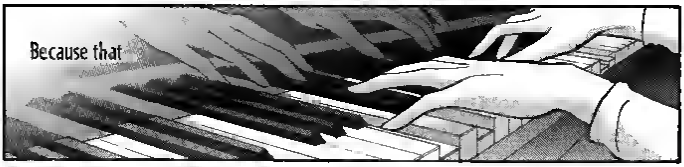


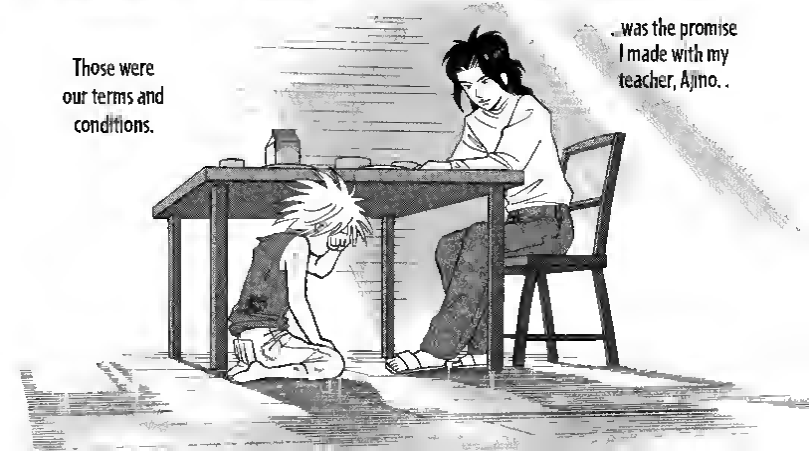


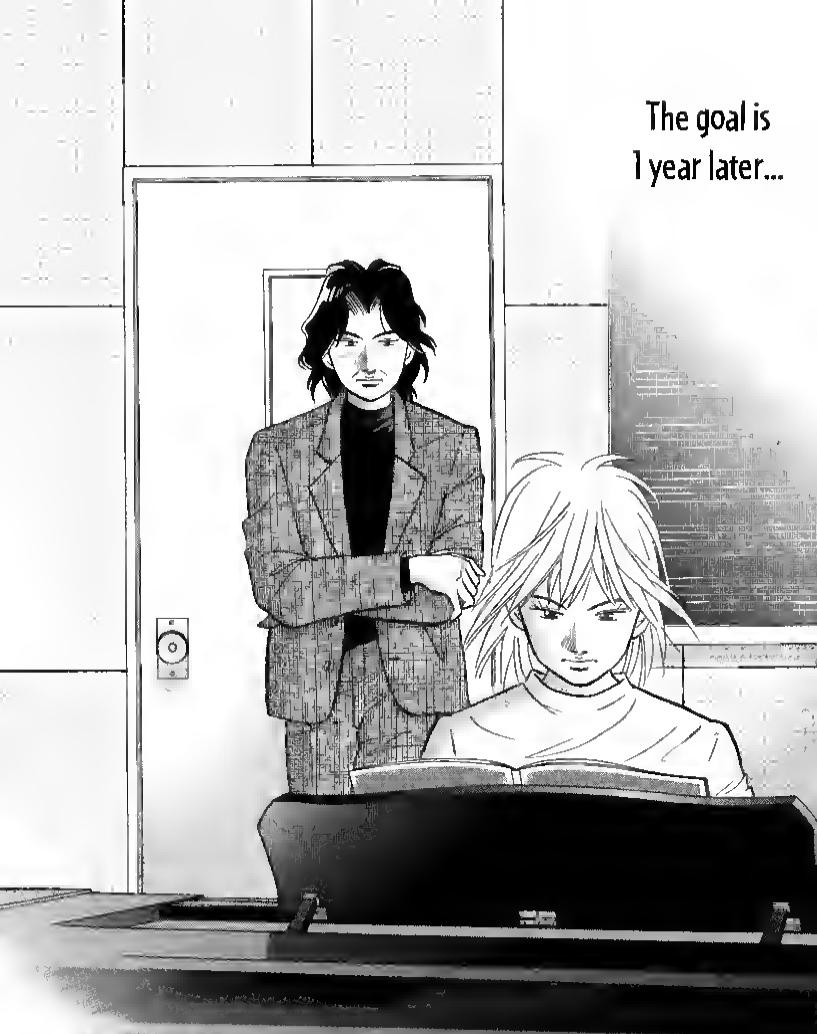


Good job.
Hello, sensei.
It was bound to happen some day!
And you have no problem going to an adults only bar?
That's odd...
But I don't like coming to a college campus as a high school student.
Ahaha, is that how it is?
My schedule is completely open now, so I'll do anything you tell me...
Of course.
I want you to follow my schedule now.


From now on, I will stop all my part time jobs, being Maria and the clown, and concentrate on my piano lessons.
Then keep going.
That's a good mind-set.


Because that


Those were our terms and conditions.
..was the promise I made with my teacher, Ajino. .



Where is Maria?! - END

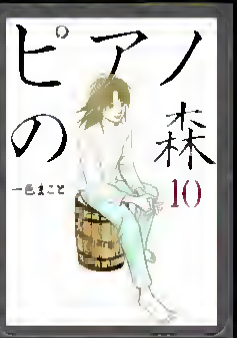
To be continued in volume 11

About the Chopin Competition

This work has been created based on research done on The 14th International Chopin Competition. Starting with the 15th(2005) competition, the rules have changed a little, so please excuse any differences there may be between the real Chopin Competition and the one in this work.

PIANO NO MORI

by Isshiki Makoto



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